

Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo XIV is the first pope from the United States of America. Robert Francis Prevost was born in 1955 in Chicago, Illinois. In 1977, he graduated from Villanova University with a degree in mathematics. He joined the Order of Saint Augustine and was ordained a priest in June of 1982. He has spent most his life outside of the United States. He has served in Peru as a missionary, a parish priest, and a bishop. He has also served in Rome as the Superior General of the Order of Saint Augustine. In 2023, he returned to Rome to serve as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, which is responsible for evaluating and recommending potential bishops. On May 8, 2025, Prevost was elected pope and took the name Leo XIV.

Highlights

- 1955: Born in Chicago, Illinois
- 1977: Graduated from Villanova University
- 1982: Ordained a priest of the Order of Saint Augustine
- 1985-1999: Served in various roles in Peru including as a parish priest and as a teacher at the diocesan seminary
- 2001-2013: served in Rome as Superior General of the Order of Saint Augustine
- 2015-2023: served as bishop of Chiclayo, Peru
- 2023-2025: served as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America
- May 8, 2025: Pope Leo XIV elected head of the Catholic Church

Fun Facts

- He is the first pope from North America and the first pope from the Order of Saint Augustine.
- He is a dual citizen of the United States and Peru.
- He is fluent in English, Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese, and can read Latin and German.



Quotes

"We are often preoccupied with teaching doctrine, the way of living our faith, but we risk forgetting that our first task is to teach what it means to know Jesus Christ and to bear witness to our closeness to the Lord. This comes first: to communicate the beauty of the faith, the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus." (Vatican News, 2023)

"We are all in the hands of God. Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and with each other we move forward. We are disciples of Christ. Christ precedes us. The world needs his light." (First Blessing of the Holy Father Leo XIV, May 8, 2025)