



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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A.Y. 2024-2025

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

RE : *HABEMUS PAPAM*, POPE LEO XIV

DATE : 9 May 2025

With great joy and profound gratitude to God, the University joins the universal Church in welcoming our new Holy Father. Following the sacred rites of the Conclave and the traditional proclamation *Habemus Papam* (“We have a Pope”) (see *Annex A*), His Eminence Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost of the United States of America has been elected as the 267th Successor of Saint Peter: the Vicar of Christ, Bishop of Rome, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Sovereign of the Vatican City State, and Servant of the Servants of God, in the Jubilee of Hope. He has taken the name **POPE LEO XIV** (see *Annex C*).

In communion with the whole Church, the University acknowledges and celebrates this historic moment as a profound reaffirmation of our shared faith and fidelity to the See of Peter. As a Pontifical University, UST reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the magisterium of the Church and the mission of Catholic education in service of truth, justice, and charity.¹

In celebration of the election of the new Pope, the University shall undertake the following activities:

1. EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS (9 May 2025)

- In accordance with RCAM Circular no. 2025-31 and CBCP Episcopal Commission on Liturgy Circular no. 2025-01, the name of the newly elected Pope shall already be mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer immediately upon his election.
- Since the election of the new Pope took place on a weekday, today’s masses at the Santísimo Rosario Parish (6:15 am, 7:30 am, and 5:15 pm), as well as the masses celebrated by the academic and administrative units in our campuses in Manila, Santa Rosa and General Santos, shall observe the “*Mass for the Pope*”². The readings of the day will be used.

2. PRAYER OF GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFT OF A NEW POPE (see *Annex B*).

To express the gratitude of the Thomasian community for the gift of the new Pope, a special prayer for the Pope may be offered, deepening our communion with the universal Church and strengthening our shared hope in the leadership of the newly elected Successor of St. Peter, Pope Leo XIV (RCAM Circular no. 2025-31)

¹ cf. *Sapientia Christiana*, Preface III; cf. *Gravissimum Educationis*, 1; *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* 7, 12.

² “Mass for the Pope” in *Roman Missal, Masses for Various Needs or Occasions* or “*Para sa Papa*” in *Aklat ng Pagmimisa sa Roma, Mga Pagdiriwang at Panalangin sa iba’t ibang Pangangailangan*.





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- Within the celebration of the Mass, this prayer may be offered after the Post-Communion Prayer and before the Final Blessing.
- Outside the celebration of the Mass, the same prayer may be used in various settings such as classroom prayers, meetings, assemblies, discussions, and devotional gatherings.

3. ILLUMINATION OF UST LANDMARKS

- Beginning this evening (9 May 2025) until Good Shepherd Sunday (11 May 2025), the Main Building, Arch of the Centuries, and other major landmarks within the campus will be illuminated in gold and white from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm to mark the joyous occasion.

4. PASTORAL REFLECTION

- The Thomasian community is encouraged to engage in meaningful conversations—whether in formal settings or casual gatherings, among small circles or larger groups—on the role of the Pope and the enduring impact of his election in the life of the Church and in today's world.

5. SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

- The official University social media platforms and website shall feature the newly elected Pope, which aims to foster awareness, deepening appreciation for the Petrine ministry, and uniting the Thomasian community in prayer and joyful celebration with the universal Church.
- All official social media platforms and website of the academic and administrative units, as well as recognized student organizations, are likewise encouraged to do the same.
- Members of the Thomasian community are also encouraged to use their social media accounts to share messages, reflections, and content from credible sources that highlight the life, mission, and message of the newly elected Pope.
- You may use #USTWelcomesPopeLeoXIV, #USTforPopeLeoXIV

6. OFFICIAL PAPAL PHOTOGRAPH

- In light of the election of the new Pope, all academic and administrative units are kindly requested to update the official photograph of the Pope displayed in their offices and digital platforms.
- The official photograph will be disseminated once available, through the coordination of the Office of the Secretary-General.

Let us continue to pray for our new Pope—Leo XIV—that the Holy Spirit may guide him as he shepherds the Church in these challenging times. May his pontificate inspire us to live in Truth (*Veritas*), charity, and dialogue. *“Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificabo Ecclesiam meam”* (Mt 16:18).³

In Christ,


FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, OP
Secretary-General

³ “You, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church” (Mt 16:18).



ANNEX A

FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW POPE

From the central loggia of Saint Peter's Basilica, Cardinal Protodeacon Dominique Mamberti pronounced the formula "*Habemus Papam*," proclaiming to the city of Rome and to the whole world (*Urbi et Orbi*) the news of the election of Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost as Pope Leo XIV:

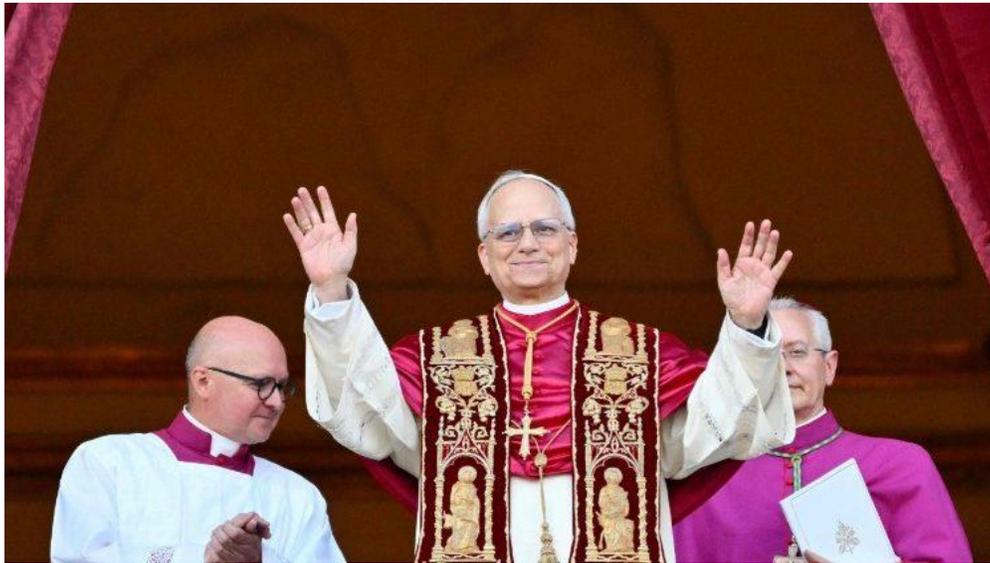


Figure 1 Photo c/o Vatican News

Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum;
habemus Papam:

Eminentissimum ac Reverendissimum Dominum,
Dominum Robertum Franciscum
Sanctae Romanae Ecclesiae Cardinalem Prevost
qui sibi nomen imposuit Leonem XIV.

In English, it can be translated as:

I announce to you a great joy;
we have a pope:

The most eminent and most reverend lord,
Lord Robert Francis
Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Prevost
who has taken the name Leo the Fourteenth.



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ANNEX B
PRAYER OF GRATITUDE
FOR THE GIFT OF A NEW POPE

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd and High Priest,
we praise you and offer you our sincere gratitude
for calling Pope *N.* to serve as the shepherd of the universal church.
May he lead us as a loving shepherd
who cares for his flock and seeks out the lost sheep.
May he be for us a gentle and listening father,
a faithful teacher and a steward of your sacred mysteries.
Grant him health, strength, and wisdom.
Strengthen the bonds of unity among us
so that we may serve you as one body.
Purify us and sustain us in charity
for your love for us never fails.
Grant that we may boldly answer your call to mission.
You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.
Amen.





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ANNEX C
BIONOTE OF POPE LEO XIV

Second from the Americas

The newly elected Pope Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A., is the second Roman Pontiff from the Americas, following Pope Francis. Unlike Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina, however, the 69-year-old Cardinal Prevost hails from North America, having been born in Chicago, Illinois. Prior to his elevation to the papacy, he spent many years in missionary service in Peru and served as the global head of the Augustinian Order for two consecutive terms.

First Augustinian Pope

Born on September 14, 1955, to Louis Marius Prevost (of French and Italian heritage) and Mildred Martínez (of Spanish descent), Robert Francis Prevost is the first member of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) to become pope. He grew up in Chicago with his brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph.

After early studies at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers, he earned a degree in Mathematics and Philosophy from Villanova University in 1977. That same year, he entered the Augustinian novitiate in Saint Louis and made his first profession in 1978. His solemn profession followed in 1981.

He studied theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and was later sent to Rome, where he earned a licentiate and doctorate in Canon Law at the *Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum)*. He was ordained a priest in Rome on June 19, 1982, by Mons. Jean Jadot.

Missionary and Pastoral Work in Peru

Between 1985 and 1999, he served extensively in Peru, particularly in Chulucanas and Trujillo, taking on roles such as judicial vicar, professor of theology and canon law, community prior, and pastor in impoverished neighborhoods. His work helped build both ecclesial structures and local vocations. He also administered multiple parishes and helped form local Augustinian candidates.

Leadership in the Augustinian Order

In 1999, he was elected Prior Provincial of the Chicago-based Augustinian Province of “Mother of Good Counsel.” In 2001, the Ordinary General Chapter elected him Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, a position to which he was re-elected in 2007.





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Return to Peru and Episcopal Ministry

Pope Francis appointed him Apostolic Administrator of Chiclayo on November 3, 2014, and ordained him Titular Bishop of Sufar on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He became Bishop of Chiclayo in 2015 and later held various leadership roles within the Peruvian Episcopal Conference, including Vice-President.

Service in the Roman Curia

Between 2019 and 2023, he was successively appointed a member of several Vatican dicasteries, including the Congregations for the Clergy and for Bishops. On January 30, 2023, Pope Francis named him Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, promoting him to Archbishop.

Created Cardinal and Further Appointments

He was made Cardinal-Deacon of Santa Monica at the Consistory of September 30, 2024, and took possession of his titular church on January 28, 2025. He actively participated in both sessions of the Synod on Synodality (2023 and 2024) and was subsequently appointed to eight Roman dicasteries, including Doctrine of the Faith, Evangelization, Eastern Churches, and Legislative Texts.

Promoted to the Order of Bishops

On February 6, 2025, Pope Francis promoted him to the Order of Bishops, assigning him the Suburbicarian See of Albano, one of the traditional cardinal-bishop titles.

Episcopal Motto

His episcopal motto, *In Illo uno unum* ("In the One, we are one"), drawn from Saint Augustine's sermon on Psalm 127, reflects his vision of unity in Christ and echoes the theological roots of his Augustinian vocation.

Source: [Vatican News](#)

