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The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

May 8, 2025

Chicago native Cardinal Prevost elected pope, takes name Leo XIV



Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the Chicago-born prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, was elected the 267th pope May 8 and took the name Pope Leo XIV.

He is the first North American to be elected pope and, before the conclave, was the U.S. cardinal most mentioned as a potential successor of St. Peter.

The white smoke poured from the chimney on the roof of the Sistine Chapel at 6:07 p.m. Rome time and a few minutes later the bells of St. Peter's Basilica began to ring.

About 20 minutes later the Vatican police band and two dozen members of the Pontifical Swiss Guard marched into St. Peter's Square. They soon were joined by the marching band of the Italian Carabinieri, a branch of military police, and by units of the other branches of the Italian military.

As soon as news began to spread, people from all over Rome ran to join the tens of thousands who were already in the square for the smoke watch. Rome Mayor Roberto Gualtieri was among them.

French Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, protodeacon of the College of Cardinals, appeared on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at 7:12 p.m. He told the crowd: "I announce to you a great joy. We have a pope ('Habemus papam')," saying the cardinal's name in Latin and announcing the name by which he will be called.

Ten minutes later, the new Pope Leo came out onto the balcony, smiling and waving to the crowd wearing the white papal cassock, a red mozzetta or cape and a red stole to give his first public blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)



**Read the full text of 'urbi at orbi'
blessing by Pope Leo XIV**

[Click Here to Read the Full Text](#)

'A missionary at heart': Catholic groups welcome Pope Leo XIV, first US-born pope



Catholic groups are welcoming Pope Leo XIV — the second pope from the Americas, and the first U.S.-born pontiff — who was elected May 8, the second day of the papal conclave.

Catholic Relief Services, the official humanitarian agency of the Catholic Church in the U.S., released a statement moments after Pope Leo had delivered his “Urbi et Orbi” blessing.

CRS president and CEO Sean Callahan said the agency was “overjoyed by the election of Pope Leo XIV and look forward to his leadership and guidance.”

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Statement of the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on the election of Cardinal Robert F. Prevost as the New Pope



On May 8, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, released the following statement on the election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, as the new Pope, who has chosen the papal name Leo XIV:

“Today is a day of great joy and thanksgiving in the life of the Church as we welcome a new Successor to the See of Saint Peter. I invite all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton to join me in fervently praying for our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, who has been chosen today by the College of Cardinals as the 267th Pope.

“While the election of Pope Leo XIV is historic as the first North American to be elected Pope, his vast missionary experience of walking among the poor and serving those on the margins with humility, will serve him well as he echoes Christ’s call of going forth and making disciples of all nations to all people.

“With this selection, I believe the Cardinals have recognized the vibrancy, faithfulness, and strength of the Church in the United States. For generations, American Catholics have sought to embrace the Gospel with compassion – and having a shepherd chosen from among us is both humbling and affirming. It also speaks to the goodness that has grown in the church of North America – a goodness bearing fruit in service and evangelization.

“We entrust Pope Leo XIV to the care of the Holy Spirit. May his heart be open to divine guidance, and may he be filled with strength, wisdom, courage, insight, and compassion for the great responsibility that lies before him.

“This is a beautiful moment for our Church to show its unity. Let us remain united in prayer – and especially hope – in the weeks and months ahead as the 2025 Jubilee Year continues.”

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**President Trump, US political
leaders congratulate Pope Leo XIV:
'A great honor for our country'**



President Donald Trump on May 8 congratulated Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the Chicago-born prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, who was elected the 267th pope the same day, taking the name Pope Leo XIV.

In a post on his social media website Truth Social, Trump noted Pope Leo will be the first American pontiff in the church's history.

"Congratulations to Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, who was just named Pope," Trump wrote. "It is such an honor to realize that he is the first American Pope. What excitement, and what a Great Honor for our Country."

Trump added, "I look forward to meeting Pope Leo XIV. It will be a very meaningful moment!"

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On the eve of conclave, Papal ring, insignia destroyed



On the eve of the Conclave, the ring and lead seal of the late Pope Francis were destroyed in the presence of members of the College of Cardinals in the Vatican's New Synod Hall.

In a video released by the Vatican May 6, an unidentified woman scratched a cross on the papal ring, known as the fisherman's ring, as well as on a lead seal bearing the papal insignia used to mark Pope Francis' letters.

When asked why the destruction of the ring and the seal took place at the meeting and not immediately after the pope's death, Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, told journalists that the rules in the apostolic constitution, "Universi Dominici Gregis," which governs the interregnum and election of a new pope, does not specify a precise time.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Francis' final gift to Gaza: Popemobile transformed into mobile clinic for children



With the declining situation in Gaza always in his heart, in his final months, Pope Francis bequeathed his popemobile to Caritas Jerusalem and directed the agency to turn it into a mobile health station for the children in Gaza.

Preparation of the new health station is to be completed by mid-May, said Peter Brune, secretary general of Caritas Sweden, who together with Caritas Jerusalem's Anton Asfar developed the idea in February. Upon Asfar's suggestion, Brune visited Bethlehem in February to view the popemobile that had been stored in

Bethlehem since it was used by Pope Francis on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2014.

Pope Francis readily agreed to the idea after Swedish Cardinal Anders Arborelius of Stockholm, Sweden, approached him, Brune told OSV News in a phone interview.

“There is an urgency in the need to help children in Gaza. There has been a full blockage of aid since March 2,” Brune said. “This is not the way we should treat our children.”

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Bishop Bambera to celebrate annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass May 11



**MOTHER'S DAY
ADOPTION MASS**

**Sunday, May 11, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

At this special Mass, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will recognize all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers.

CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass live and provide a livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website.

Diocese of Scranton 

The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate its annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass on Sunday, May 11, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral

of Saint Peter in Scranton. This liturgy prayerfully recognizes all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass.

The Mother's Day Adoption Mass is open to the public and all faithful are invited to attend.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live. A livestream will also be provided on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

Mark your calendars for May 11 and join us for the Mother's Day Adoption Mass as we pray for mothers, near and far, including Mary, Mother of the Church.

[Click Here to Share this Information from the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

**Host-for-a-Day supporters celebrated
with gratitude**



Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen celebrated the successful culmination of its 2025 Host-for-a-Day campaign with a special event at Fiorelli's in Peckville on April 30.

Contributors to the 47th annual campaign gathered for food, fellowship and to hear how their support enables the Kitchen to feed and clothe those in need.

Also two members of the Kitchen's Advisory Board were recognized for their service, and three institutions – Empower Financial Services Company, The University of Scranton and Scranton Running Company – were honored for continued support of the Kitchen's mission.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

First Holy Communions taking place in parishes across the Diocese



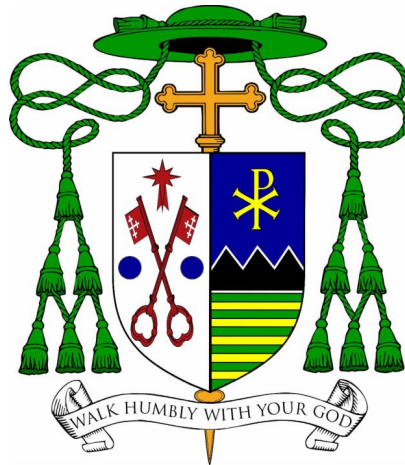
The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the source and summit and life of the Catholic Church, as well as the sacrament of unity among Christ, its head, and his members.

Through the invocation of the Holy Spirit and Christ's words of Institution, bread and wine become the sacramental Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Parishes across the Diocese of Scranton are currently celebrating First Holy Communions. All parishes have been invited to send photos to the Diocese of Scranton Communications Office - and they are being compiled on the Diocesan website.

[Click Here to See the First Holy Communion Photos Submitted by Parishes Across the Diocese of Scranton](#)

Bishop Bambera announces clergy appointments

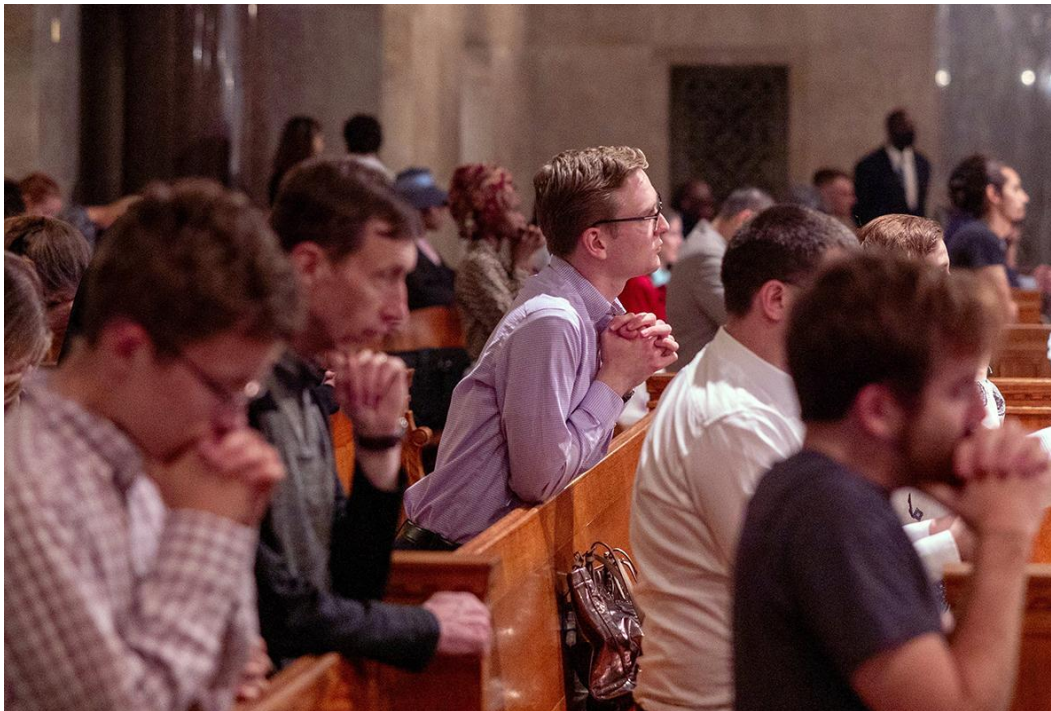


On Monday, May 5, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced several clergy appointments.

To view the latest clergy appointment announcement from May 5, please click on the link below.

[Click Here to View Bishop Bambera's Clergy Appointments from May 5, 2025](#)

Pew study finds Mass divide among U.S. Catholics looking for 'inclusive' Church



As the Catholic Church and its cardinals prepare for May's conclave, a new study by the Pew Research Center shows that U.S. Catholics want a more inclusive church – but divides remain on key issues among those with differing rates of Mass attendance.

The survey found that 60% of U.S. Catholics said the church “should be more inclusive, even if that means changing some of its teachings,” while 37% said the church “should stick to its traditional teachings, even if that means the church gets smaller.”

But among those who attend Mass weekly, 53% said the church should prioritize its traditional teachings, while 42% said it should prioritize inclusivity.

White non-Hispanic Catholics (61%) were more likely to prioritize inclusivity over keeping traditional teaching than Hispanic Catholics (56%). Hispanic Catholics showed stronger support for insisting the church stick to traditional teachings (40%) than white non-Hispanic Catholics (37%).

The survey did not include enough Black or Asian Catholics to break out separate responses.

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President Trump establishes Religious Liberty Commission including Cardinal Dolan, Bishop Barron



President Donald Trump on May 1 signed an executive order creating a religious liberty commission during an interfaith event marking the National Day of Prayer in the White House Rose Garden.

Those named to the commission included Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota.

The White House said the commission, which will advise its Faith Office and the Domestic Policy Council, is tasked with producing “a comprehensive report on the foundations of religious liberty in America, strategies to increase awareness of and celebrate America’s peaceful religious pluralism, current threats to religious liberty, and strategies to preserve and enhance protections for future generations,” and that some of its areas of focus include school choice and conscience protections.

In comments at the event, Trump sought to cast his administration as one defending “people of all faiths, their religious freedoms, at home and abroad.”

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