



# DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



**Celebrating  
Pope Leo XIV's First  
Year**

*Special Edition of The Catholic Light Weekly E-Newsletter*  
*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

When Robert Francis Prevost stepped onto the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica one year ago May 8, he carried with him a piece of paper on which he had carefully written the first words he would utter as Pope Leo XIV.

His first speech was, in ways that would only become clear over the year that followed, a preview of what was to come.

"Peace be with you all," the newly elected Pope Leo said.

Peace would become perhaps the most visible theme of his first year, as war flared in the Middle East and Pope Leo became a persistent and sometimes lone voice of moral authority for restraint and dialogue.

But the eight-minute speech that followed also contained many of the other major themes of his early pontificate: a vision of "a united Church," theological rootness in St. Augustine, the pope's missionary heart and a prioritization of God above all else.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM POPE LEO XIV'S FIRST YEAR



**MAY 8, 2025**

Cardinal Robert F. Prevost elected pope; takes the name Leo XIV.

**MAY 18, 2025**

Inaugurated his Petrine ministry with Mass in St. Peter's Square.

**JULY 7-22, 2025**

Vacationed in Castel Gandolfo, a traditional papal summer residence.



**JULY 28-AUG. 3, 2025**

Encountered young people at the Vatican during the Jubilee of Youth.

**OCT. 9, 2025**

Published apostolic exhortation "Dilexi te," a text begun by Pope Francis on love for the poor.

**NOV. 1, 2025**

Proclaimed St. John Henry Newman a doctor of the Church.

**NOV. 27-DEC. 2, 2025**

Made first apostolic visit to Turkey and Lebanon.

**JAN. 7-8, 2026**

Convened an extraordinary consistory of cardinals.



**MARCH 28, 2026**

Made apostolic visit to Monaco.

**APRIL 13-23, 2026**

Made apostolic visit to Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and

**MAY 9, 2025**

Celebrated first Mass as pope in the Sistine Chapel with cardinals.

**MAY 19, 2025**

Met with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and other faith leaders, as well as U.S. Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

**JULY 9, 2025**

Met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as the Holy See offered to help negotiate peace with Russia.

**SEPT. 7, 2025**

Presided over first canonizations: Sts. Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis.

**OCT. 23, 2025**

Prayed with King Charles III in the Sistine Chapel, a first since the Church of England's break with Rome in 1534.

**NOV. 20, 2025**

Took first trip beyond greater Rome to conclude the Italian Episcopal Conference's meeting in Assisi.

**JAN. 6, 2026**

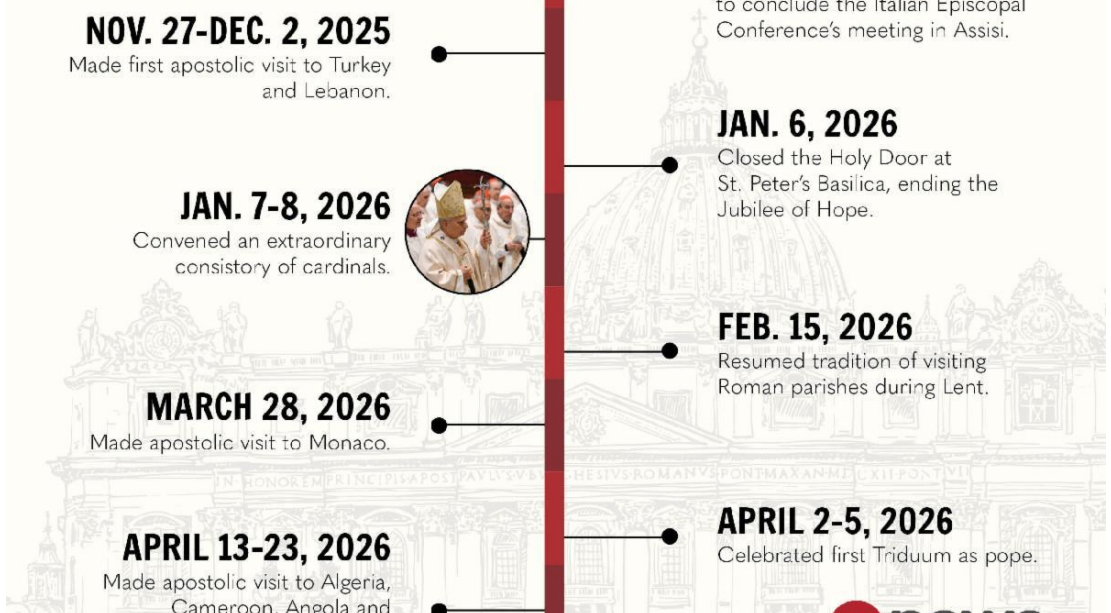
Closed the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, ending the Jubilee of Hope.

**FEB. 15, 2026**

Resumed tradition of visiting Roman parishes during Lent.

**APRIL 2-5, 2026**

Celebrated first Triduum as pope.



## 'Peace be with you all': Pope Leo's first words were a roadmap for his first year

Over his first year, Pope Leo XIV has put significant effort into elevating the signs of faith - he has offered more than 65 public Masses, carried the Eucharist in procession through the streets of Rome and carried the cross for two key events.



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

## Pope Leo XIV's First-Year Themes of Unity, Community have Augustinian Ties

One of the first things Pope Leo XIV said from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica upon his election May 8, 2025, was "I am a son of St. Augustine, an Augustinian."



**Click Here to  
Read the Full  
Story**

## **Americans continue to feel drawn to Pope Leo, first American pontiff, a year after election**

A year into his papacy, Pope Leo XIV is still enjoying popularity and rockstar-like fame, especially in Chicago, his hometown. Beyond the pop-culture interest, his dedication to the faith and outreach to young people have stood out.



**Click Here to  
Read the Full  
Story**

## **God's Diplomat: Pope Leo XIV and his Strategy to speak Gospel to Power**



As he prepares to celebrate a year on the throne of Peter, Pope Leo XIV has become one of the most quoted global leaders on the planet.

**[Click Here to Read the Full Story](#)**

As the one-year anniversary of Pope Leo XIV's election to the papacy approaches, here is a selection of six quotes from the new pontiff on various topics, looking back over the 12 months since he became pope May 8, 2025.



**"Be agents of communion,  
capable of breaking down the  
logic of division and  
polarization, of individualism  
and egocentrism.**

**Centre  
yourselves on  
Christ, so as to  
overcome the  
logic of the  
world, of fake  
news, of frivolity,  
with the beauty  
and light of  
truth."**

**POPE LEO XIV  
ADDRESS TO CATHOLIC DIGITAL MISSIONARIES  
AND INFLUENCERS, JULY 29, 2025**

**OSV news**

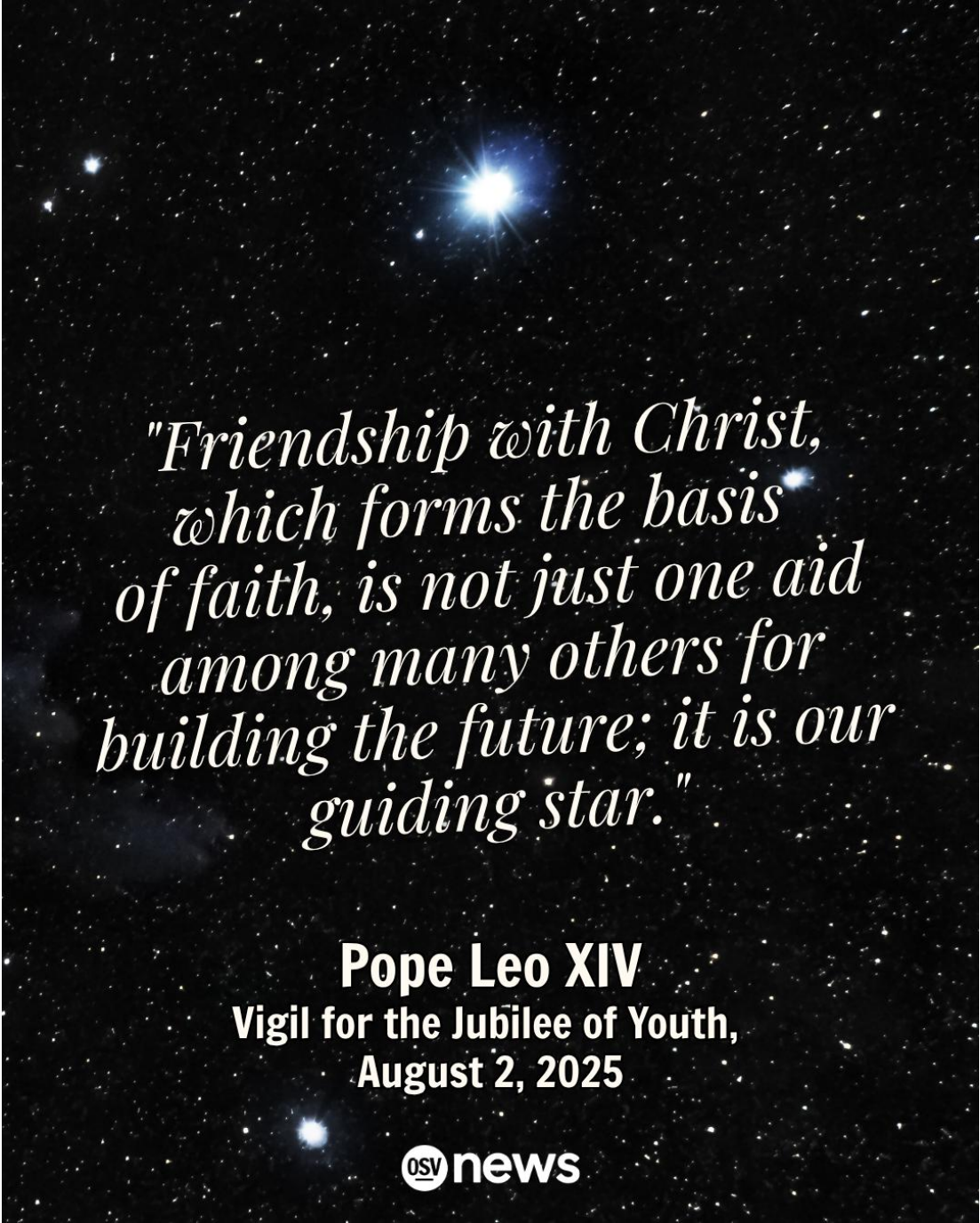


**"AI CAN PROCESS  
INFORMATION  
QUICKLY,  
BUT IT CANNOT  
REPLACE HUMAN  
INTELLIGENCE.**

**AND DON'T ASK  
IT TO DO YOUR  
HOMEWORK FOR  
YOU."**

**POPE LEO XIV**  
DIGITAL ENCOUNTER WITH YOUTH  
AT THE 2025 NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
YOUTH CONFERENCE IN  
INDIANAPOLIS NOV. 21, 2025

**OSV news**



*"Friendship with Christ,  
which forms the basis  
of faith, is not just one aid  
among many others for  
building the future; it is our  
guiding star."*

**Pope Leo XIV**  
**Vigil for the Jubilee of Youth,**  
**August 2, 2025**

**OSV news**

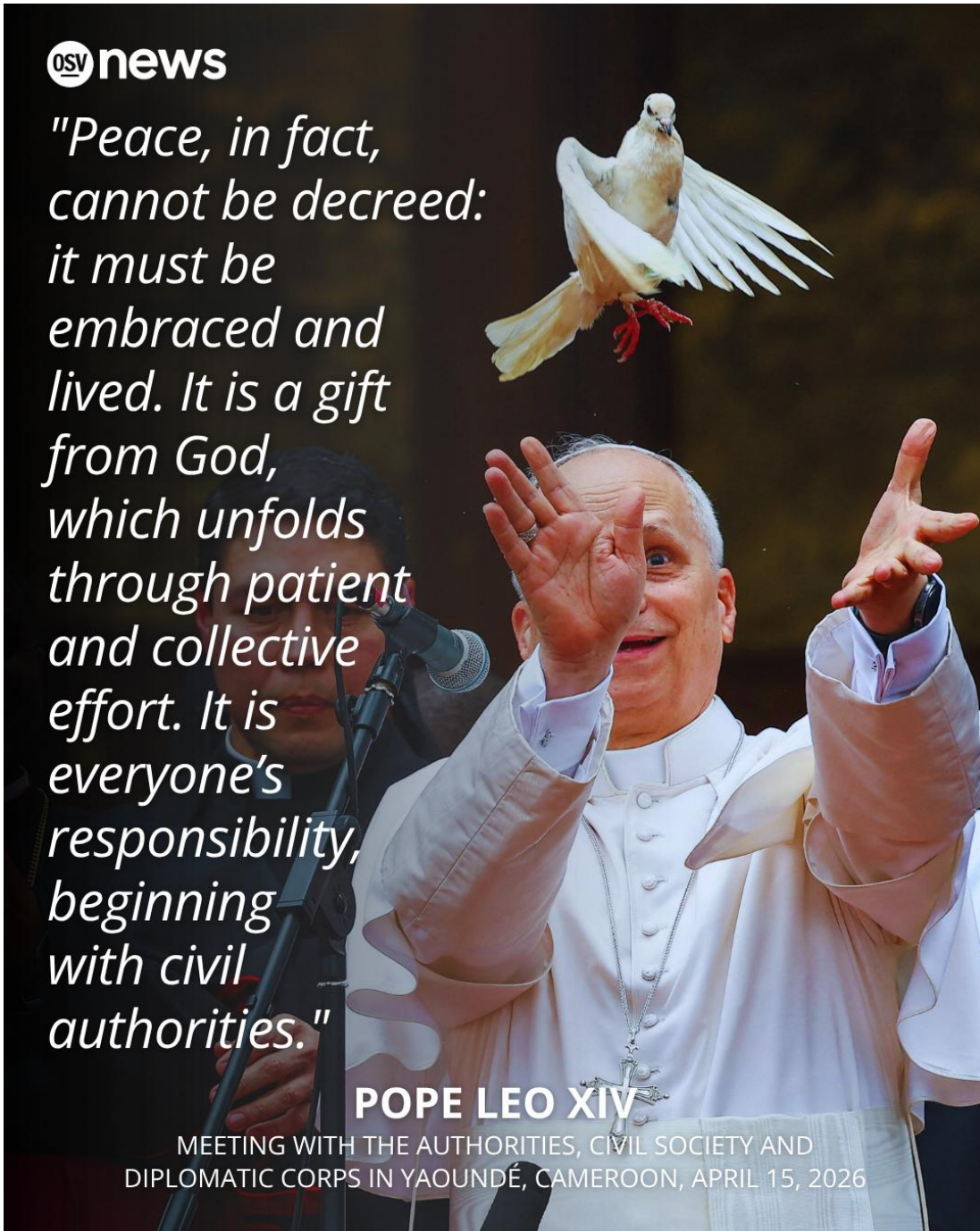
**OSV news**

*"Peace, in fact, cannot be decreed: it must be embraced and lived. It is a gift from God, which unfolds through patient and collective effort. It is everyone's responsibility, beginning with civil authorities."*



**POPE LEO XIV**

MEETING WITH THE AUTHORITIES, CIVIL SOCIETY AND  
DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON, APRIL 15, 2026

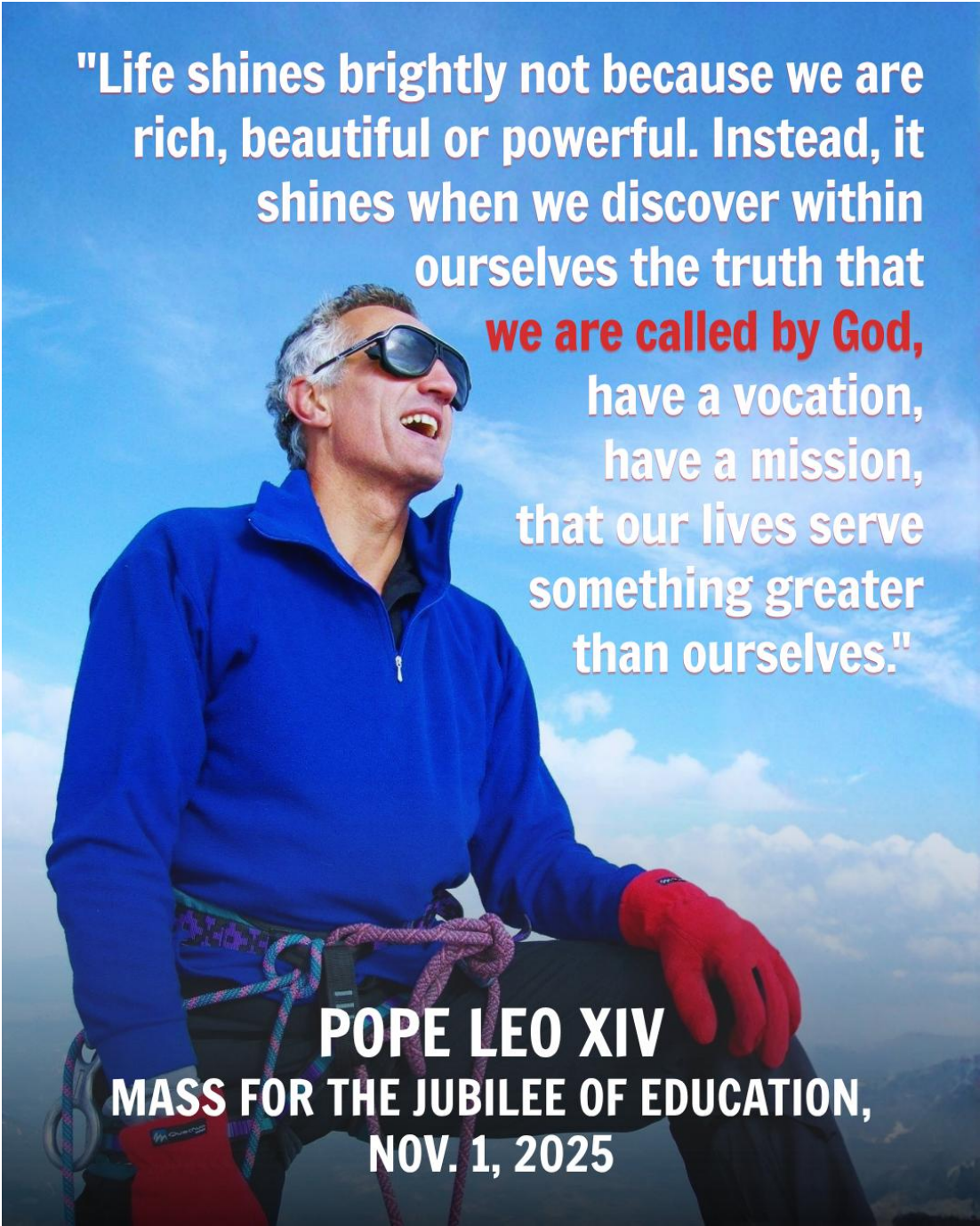




*"On the wounded faces of the poor, we see the suffering of the innocent and, therefore, the suffering of Christ himself."*

*Pope Leo XIV*

*"Dilexi Te," Oct. 9, 2025*

A man with grey hair, wearing sunglasses, a blue zip-up jacket, and red climbing gloves, is shown from the waist up. He is looking upwards and to the right with a joyful expression. He is wearing a climbing harness and has ropes attached to it. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and aspiration.

"Life shines brightly not because we are rich, beautiful or powerful. Instead, it shines when we discover within ourselves the truth that **we are called by God,** have a vocation, have a mission, that our lives serve something greater than ourselves."

**POPE LEO XIV**  
**MASS FOR THE JUBILEE OF EDUCATION,**  
**NOV. 1, 2025**

# Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,  
look favorably on your servant Leo,  
whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd;  
grant, we pray, that by word and example  
he may be of service to those over whom he presides  
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,  
he may come to everlasting life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.