

# Pope Leo XIV



# What Does the Pope Do?

The pope is known as the 'Bishop of Rome' and has many different duties and responsibilities.

## **Talk about It!**

Why do you think he is known as the 'Bishop of Rome'?

He is the head of the Catholic Church and can organise special meetings, known as councils, that address problems in today's world. The pope has the authority to make religious decisions and to choose new bishops.

A final important duty the pope performs is to pray for others and set an example for Catholic Christians across the world.



# College of Cardinals

Cardinals are religious leaders within the Catholic Church who help and support the work of the pope. In order for a new pope to be chosen, a vote takes place between the cardinals (known as a **conclave**) where a single name must secure the support of two-thirds of them.

## Did You Know...?

133 cardinals (all aged under 80 years old) came together and voted over two days. This is one of the largest **conclaves** in history.



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Many of the cardinals that could vote had been appointed by the previous pope (Pope Francis). This provides hope for many Catholics that the new pope will take a similar approach and have a positive vision for the Church.

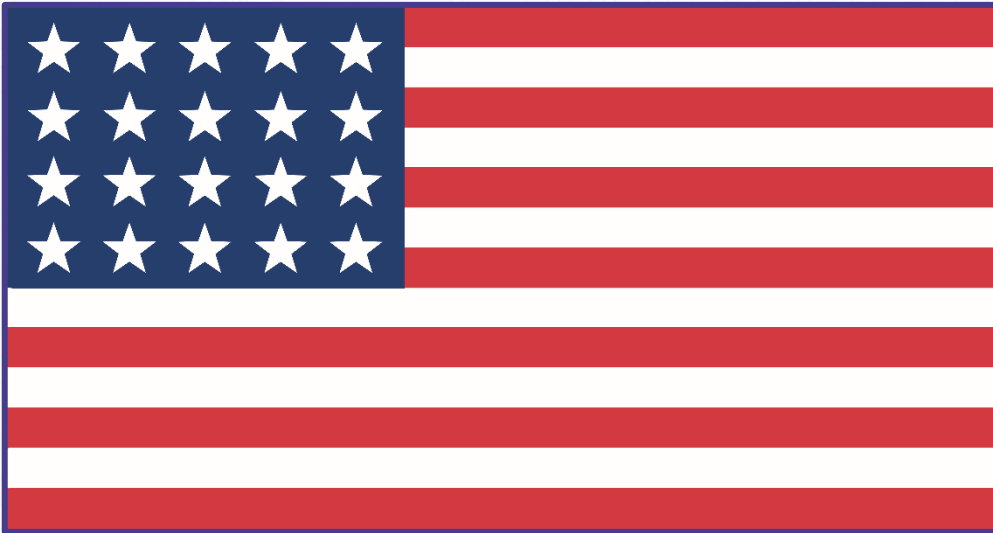
## conclave

A meeting held in private to elect a new pope.

# Who Is Robert Francis Prevost?

Robert Francis Prevost was born in Chicago (United States) on 14th September 1955 to parents Louis and Mildred Prevost.

He has two older brothers called Louis and John. They all attended St. Mary of the Assumption Church and were altar boys.



## Did You Know...?

He can speak English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and can read Latin and German.

# Education



When he was younger, Pope Leo didn't know he wanted to become a priest. In fact, he completed a degree in Mathematics at Villanova University in 1977.

He then joined the **Order** of Saint Augustine in September 1977.

He later became a priest in June 1982.

## order

A Catholic religious order is a community of people who live by the rules and promises they make to God.

## Did You Know...?

A person must take vows to become part of an **order**. These are special promises.

# The New Pope

Robert Prevost came out onto the balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica (an important church in Vatican City) and was announced as Pope Leo XIV. When popes are elected, they choose a new name.

The name Leo means 'lion' in Latin.

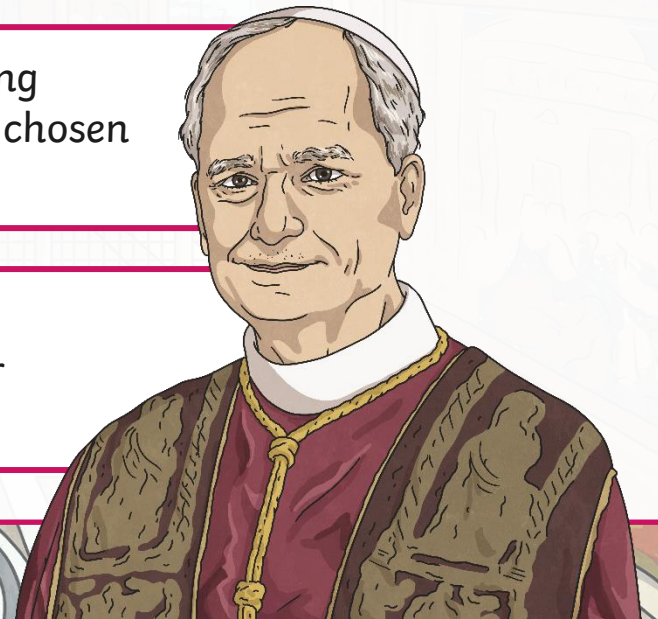
## **Talk about It!**

Why do you think the new pope might have chosen this name?

Previous popes known as Leo took on the role during challenging times. It is thought that Pope Leo has chosen to take this name to do the same.

## **Did You Know...?**

The last time there was a pope called Leo was over 100 years ago.



# Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo is a member of the Augustinian Order which believes strongly about equality and community.

He first served as a bishop from 2015 until 2023 in Chiclayo, Peru where he gained Peruvian **citizenship**. This means he is a citizen of both America and Peru.

During his time in Peru, he spent ten years as a parish leader and teacher where he helped prepare men for ministry or ordination (becoming a priest).

In September 2023, he was appointed as a cardinal by Pope Francis.

## citizenship

Being an official member of a particular country.

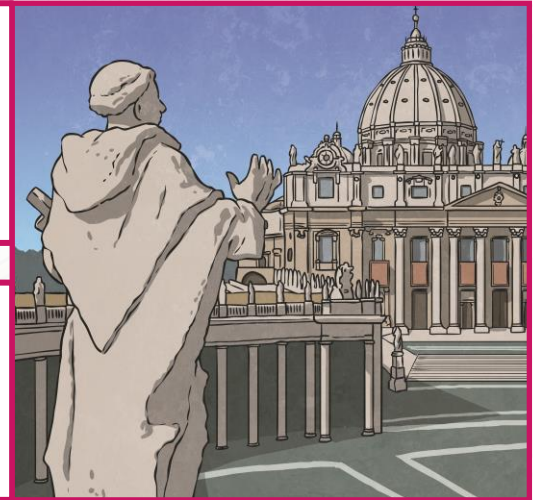


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# 267th Pope

Pope Leo will be responsible for leading the Catholic Church and providing support for the world's largest **denomination** of Christianity with around 1.2 billion followers.

In his speech to the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square, he shared how he wanted to build bridges and focus on **social justice**, promoting fairness for all.



## Did You Know...?

Saint Peter was chosen as the first pope by Jesus and there has been a continuous line of popes chosen since. This is known as the apostolic succession.

## denomination

A group within the same faith or religion that have varied practices or beliefs.

## social justice

Helping to create a fairer and more equal world.

