



ORDER OF ST AUGUSTINE

ABN 29 525 834 783

Office of the Provincial, Australia

Friday, 9th May, 2025

To the Members of the Order of Saint Augustine in the Province of Australasia (communities in Australia, Korea and Vietnam) and the Augustinian Family in Australia (Ministries, Lay Associations, Affiliates)

Dear Brothers and Friends

In support of the letter addressed to the Order and international Augustinian Family from our Prior General Fr Alejandro Moral Anton OSA and in union with the Universal Church and the global community, the Augustinians of the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel, Australasia celebrate with gratitude and joy that in the election of Pope Leo XIV, a Pope has been chosen that will serve the good of all with compassion, wisdom and love. The election of a Pope who will serve with goodness is the outcome we have all been praying for in these recent days.

As an Augustinian family, with humility, we rejoice that our brother Cardinal Robert Prevost OSA has been called to this role of servant leadership in which he is called to be Pope for all.

Many of us have known the new Pope personally and have experienced his leadership when he served as Prior General of the Augustinians (2001-2013). During that time he visited all our communities and ministries in Australia and Korea. Of special significance was that he was the Prior General who initially encouraged our Province to work towards the foundation of the Order in Vietnam.

Robert Prevost was born in Chicago in 1955. After his schooling at an Augustinian high school/seminary in the United States, he professed vows in the Order in 1978, was ordained to the priesthood in Rome in 1982 where he was undertaking higher studies in Canon Law, missionary work in the OSA American mission in Chlucanas, Peru, Provincial of the Midwest (USA) Province, Prior General of the Order (2001-2023), Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, Head of the Dicastery of Bishops in Rome and made Cardinal in 2023.

Pope Leo XIV when he served our Order as Fr Robert Prevost OSA (Prior General) loved and served all of us well. He will now do the same for the Universal Church. In his first address Pope Leo XIV pleaded for peace and referred to the words of Augustine that while a Bishop for us, he is first a Christian with us. The values of communion in human relationships and profound interiority in our relationship with God are deeply embedded in the heart of Pope Leo XIV.

I commend Pope Leo XIV to the prayers of each of you.

Fraternally

Fr Peter Jones OSA
Prior Provincial
Order of Saint Augustine
Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel, Australasia