



Vox Populi

15 May 2025

Habemus papam! (We have a Pope!)

These words echoed over Saint Peter's Square on the evening of Thursday, 8th May in Rome, as Cardinal Dominique Mamberti announced the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as the new Pope, taking the name Pope Leo XIV.

Upon his election, he became the first North American Pope and the first pope from the Order of Saint Augustine.

Born in the United States, he joined the Augustinians and spent most of his priesthood as a missionary priest in Peru, while also studying and teaching in seminaries. He was elected Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine in 2001, serving two consecutive, six-year terms in the role.

In 2015, he was made Bishop of Chiclayo in Peru in 2014 and elevated to the Cardinalate in 2023. He was the prefect for the Dicastery for Bishops for more than two years prior to his election, giving him a strong degree of visibility within the Church.

While his election surprised many, particularly given the fact he has only been a cardinal for less than two years, he brings a strong pedigree of experience as a missionary, administrator and teacher.

Pope Leo XIV has already held a handful of meetings during the first week since his election, but the real work will begin following his Inauguration Mass on Sunday, May 18.

The Mass will be the inauguration of the Petrine ministry and is expected to be attended by Bishops and world leaders, including Bishop Anthony Randazzo and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.