

Vox Populi - 6 November 2025



When Cardinal Robert Prevost OSA was elected Pope in May, he became the 14th Bishop of Rome to take the name Leo.

The first Pope to have that name was Saint Leo the Great, whose memorial the Church will celebrate on November 10.

Unlike the current Pope Leo, St Leo the Great did not choose his name. The custom of choosing a "Papal" name wouldn't start until a few centuries later.

Meaning "lion", St Leo the Great was certainly a lion for the Church. He helped to defend Rome against Attila the Hun, causing the invader to withdraw.

He also called the Council of Chalcedon, which led to one of the first great splits in the Christian world, as the Oriental Orthodox broke away following the Council.

He also had an eye for the poor, re-energising charitable works in Rome amid an influx of refugees and poverty, associating fasting with charity and almsgiving.

This same spirit is echoed by Pope Leo XIV, who has signalled his intent to be not only a peacemaker, but a Pope who looks out for the poor.

This spirit is rooted in the belief of the dignity of every human being, something championed by Pope Leo XIII, who revolutionised Catholic social teaching at the end of the 19th century, and who was the main inspiration behind Pope Leo XIV's name choice.

We pray Pope Leo XIV will embody his namesake and be a "lion": a fierce defender of the most vulnerable, and a strong advocate for the dignity of every human being.