Vox Populi

4 November 2026

Saint Leo is one of the few saints known as “the Great”.

So great is his legacy, thirteen other Popes have taken this same name, including Pope Leo XIV.

During his papacy, St Leo contributed to the development of papal authority and protected Rome from being invaded by Atilla the Hun. He also played a strong role in the Council of Chalcedon, which explained the hypostatic union of Christ's two natures, divine and human, united in one person.

He had inherited a Church which had deep theological divisions, which he sought to heal. He also was a great energiser of charitable works in Rome, amid a flood of refugees and a famine, which led to great poverty in the city.

While Pope Leo XIV has cited Pope Leo XIII as the main influence on his name, the similarities between himself and St Leo the Great are interesting to note.

Saint Leo, whose Memorial we celebrate on November 10, was renowned for his theological acumen, decisive leadership in turbulent times and his development on Church doctrine.

Like St Leo, Pope Leo XIV has inherited a Church which is also facing internal divisions, while also grappling with the pressures of an increasingly secular work.

While he has taken a patient tone to his papacy, Pope Leo XIV has begun to walk in the footsteps of St Leo the Great. He has shown a desire to heal the divisions within the Church and provide decisive leadership.

He has also preached a message of peace, seeking to heal divisions across the secular world and within the Church.

If Pope Leo XIV’s legacy is anything like that of Saint Leo the Great’s, we can be assured we are in the early stages of a great Papacy.