



Dear Saint Leo Family,

On Thursday, May 8th, the Church welcomed Pope Leo XIV as the 267th successor of Saint Peter and the first American Pope. In his first address to the world, Pope Leo began with a powerful and unifying message:

**“Peace be with you all. Dearest brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the flock of God. I too would like this greeting of peace to enter our hearts, to reach your families: to all people wherever they may be, to all nations, to the whole earth: peace be with you.”**

The Holy Father reminded us of God’s unconditional love for each person, a love that brings the humble, disarming peace of the Risen Christ.

Identifying himself as a son of Saint Augustine, Pope Leo said, *“With you I am a Christian, for you I am a Bishop.”* He expressed his desire for a missionary Church that builds bridges, welcomes dialogue, and opens its arms to all those in need — just as the Holy Spirit empowers us to do.

For us here at Saint Leo the Great, this moment holds special significance as we share the name of our new Holy Father. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide Pope Leo XIV with wisdom, courage, and love as he leads the Church in these pivotal times.

In Christ,

Fr. Juan Puigbo  
Pastor  
Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church

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