

From the Rector's Desk: Giving Thanks for Pope Leo XIV



Dear Friends in Christ,

This week, history was made. The Cardinals of the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have elected a new pope: His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. As the first Pope born in the United States, his election is a moment of great significance for the universal Church—and a unique moment of grace for Catholics in our nation.

At St. Mary's Basilica, we join our voices with Catholics around the world in giving thanks to God for this new successor to St. Peter. We pray that Pope Leo will be a courageous shepherd, a man of wisdom and holiness, and a faithful teacher of the truth in a world that longs for light and peace.

His first words as pope—"Peace be with all of you"—remind us that the Church's mission remains what it has always been: to announce the peace of the risen Christ to every heart and every nation.

In these early days of his pontificate, let us lift him up in prayer, asking the Lord to bless him with the strength of Peter, the zeal of Paul, and the love of Christ.

Pope Leo, we are with you. And more importantly, Christ is with you.

In Christ,

Fr. John Muir

Rector & Pastor, St. Mary's Basilica