



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem © * Knights of Malta *

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Chancellor's Update

HABEMUS PAPAM!!

“Peace be with all of you!”

These were the thunderous first words proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV—formerly Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost, an American by birth and a naturalized son of Peru—on May 8, 2025, as he stepped into the Chair of Peter. Clad in the full dignity of traditional Papal vestments, he offered his first Holy Mass as Supreme Pontiff with solemn Latin Gregorian chant and deep veneration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our most holy Mother. **Was this a mere formality...or was it a declaration, a signal, a return?** It seemed, in that moment, that the sacred gestures of Pope Leo XIV, especially at his first Mass as Pope, spoke louder than words—offering a quiet yet unmistakable reaffirmation of the Church’s enduring identity, steeped in reverence, beauty, and truth. Many among the faithful appeared visibly moved, particularly those who have long clung to the Church’s ancient traditions—much like our Eastern Catholic brethren, whose steadfast witness through centuries of hardship continues to inspire.

Building upon his seemingly quiet tribute to tradition, Pope Leo XIV offered further encouragement to the return to tradition in his heartfelt address to the Eastern Catholics during the Jubilee of Eastern Churches on May 14, 2025—an address that honored their enduring resilience and sacred witness. He declared:

“The Church needs you. The contribution that the Christian East can offer us today is immense! We have great need to recover the sense of mystery that remains alive in your liturgies, liturgies that engage the human person in his or her entirety, that sing of the beauty of salvation and evoke a sense of wonder at how God's majesty embraces our human frailty!”

Pope Leo XIV began his address with the traditional Easter greeting, “Christ is risen,” emphasizing the centrality of the Resurrection to Christian hope. He warmly welcomed Eastern Catholic leaders and faithful to Rome, expressing joy at dedicating one of his first audiences to them.

The Pope highlighted the rich spiritual, theological, and liturgical heritage of the Eastern Churches. Quoting Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIII, he affirmed the unique role of the East in the origins of Christianity and the importance of preserving its traditions. He acknowledged the suffering many Eastern communities have endured due to war, persecution, and displacement, and warned of the risk of losing their identity in the diaspora.

Pope Leo reiterated the importance of maintaining Eastern liturgical and disciplinary traditions, even in the West.

He cited Pope Leo XIII's strong stance against Latinization and called for Latin bishops to actively support Eastern Catholics in preserving their heritage. He tasked the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches with developing guidelines to aid this mission.

The Pope praised the Eastern Churches for their deep sense of mystery in liturgy, their emphasis on the primacy of God, and their spiritual practices such as fasting, penance, and intercession. He urged them not to dilute their traditions for convenience and warned against the influence of consumerism and utilitarianism.

Drawing on the writings of Eastern saints like Ephrem the Syrian and Isaac of Nineveh, Pope Leo encouraged the faithful to see the Resurrection as a source of hope in suffering. He acknowledged the Eastern Churches as "martyr Churches" and commended their resilience in the face of violence, especially in regions like Ukraine, the Middle East, and the Caucasus.

The Pope made a heartfelt plea for peace, condemning war and calling on world leaders to engage in dialogue and negotiation. He emphasized that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but a divine gift rooted in reconciliation and forgiveness. He reaffirmed the Holy See's commitment to peacemaking and praised those who work quietly for peace.

Pope Leo stressed the need for Christians to be able to remain in their native lands with dignity and security. He thanked those who have chosen to stay despite hardships and called for concrete support to ensure their continued presence.

In closing, the Pope encouraged Eastern Catholics to be lights of faith, hope, and charity. He urged their leaders to foster communion, transparency, and humility, quoting Saint Symeon the New Theologian on the dangers of worldly attachments.

Now more than ever, let's rally in prayer—for our Holy Father, for the Church, and for a bold resurgence of the traditional Catholic life. Let us pray for a renewal that is not nostalgic, but prophetic; not backward-looking, but forward-moving in fidelity to the eternal truths of our faith.

Continue to pray the rosary as Our Lady commands and invoke the intercession of Archangel St Michael as called for by his predecessor – Pope Leo XIII!

Let this be a time of awakening. Let this be a time of hope.

<https://www.osvnews.com/full-text-pope-leo-xivs-address-to-eastern-catholics/>

Biography of Pope Leo XIV <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/biography-of-robert-francis-prevost-pope-leo-xiv.html>

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