



#### May 18, 2025

# QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW POPE

Ever since the election of Pope Leo this past week, I've been peppered with questions about the new Pope and what his papacy will mean for the church and the world. The truthful answer, which is also the best answer, is, "I don't know." Our media loves to categorize people as progressive, conservative, being for this and against that; but let's approach the papacy of Pope Leo with an open heart and an open mind and with faith that this is the person the Holy Spirit wants to shepherd the Catholic Church at this moment in history. While I did know Pope Leo XIV while he was just Bob Prevost and we were students at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago in the early 1980's, we were not in the same class; we were not close friends; and people can change a lot and be changed a lot by life in 43 years. So, I have no inside knowledge to share. And, since the bulletin has a Monday deadline, you may have more information by the time the weekend comes.

Here is what I think is important to know. First, Pope Leo is what is called in the trade a "lifer." That is, he entered the seminary right after eighth grade. The Augustinian Friars maintained a high school seminary in Michigan until the end of the 1970's, and the Pope graduated from this boarding school. However, the rest of his religious formation took place in the context of a larger institution, where he attended class along with lay people, who represented other religious faiths (or no religious faith). The Augustinians have a college formation program at their own university, Villanova in Pennsylvania. Catholic Theological Union in Hyde Park began in the late 1960's as a joint seminary program for the Franciscans, Passionists, and Servites. Other religious congregations joined, and it also welcomed lay men and women interested in ministry. While seminarians lived with members of their own religious congregation, classes were held in an old hotel and at a synagogue down the street. This means that Pope Leo is likely to continue the goals of synodality (clergy and laity listening together), since it was part of his own religious formation.

Second, Pope Leo is clearly someone that Pope Francis trusted; which means there is likely to be a lot of continuity with the themes close to the heart of Pope Francis. After spending many years of missionary work in Peru, he was chosen by Francis to lead the Commission for Latin America. He was also appointed to the Dicastery (or Commission) that screens and selects bishops from around the world. Previously he had spent a dozen years in Rome as Superior General of the Augustinian Order. In these roles he would have had contact with many of the Cardinal electors, and he was made a Cardinal only two years earlier. If he was not Francis' choice to succeed him, he was certainly someone Francis wanted to have a say in whom that successor would be. Going in to the conclave, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Secretary of State under Francis was considered the favorite to succeed him. And while there was undoubtedly a movement to bring the Papacy back to Italy after almost forty years of "foreign" popes, the diverse college of cardinals seemed to coalesce around Leo.

While Pope Leo represents continuity with Pope Francis, he seems to have a greater sympathy for tradition. He is also likely to be more careful in what he says publicly. Pope Francis often varied from prepared texts and talked "off the cuff," which at times created problems for Vatican officials, since the Pope seemed to be changing church teaching on the spur of the moment. The difference was apparent as soon as Pope Leo stepped out on the balcony for the first time. He was wearing the red shoulder cape and Papal Stole over his cassock, a tradition which Pope Francis dispensed with when he stepped through the curtains. Pope Leo had taken the time to write out his remarks, which he read to the gathered crowd. He also has a degree in Canon (Church) Law from Rome. All of these factors, I think, helped him gain the support of the more conservative cardinals. His undergraduate degree is in mathematics, which might help him understand and address the intricacies of Vatican finances.

Another question I received concerns how the Pope influences world politics. Well, mostly through his public addresses and writings. However, Vatican City, as a sovereign state, has its own diplomatic corps. Vatican diplomats can intervene in church disputes, but can also be called upon to mediate international civil disputes. Mostly, though, the Pope serves as a moral counterweight to the more aggressive, self-serving policies of individual nations. Let's all pray for him and wish him well.

#### GENERATION TO GENERATION

Thank you to those who have made a pledge to the Generation to Generation campaign. Our parish has already reached 100% of our pledged goal. Now that we have reached our goal, 80% of the funds come back to us. Unlike the Annual Catholic Appeal, which enables the Archdiocese of Chicago to maintain essential services for another year, Generation to Generation seeks to address the long-term needs of the Archdiocese and Assumption. You can make a difference by giving what is right for your household. Just as we have been blessed by previous generations of Catholics, let us seize this opportunity to pass on the blessings we have received to strengthen the next generation of Catholics.

#### A NOTE OF THANKS FROM FR. SIPLE

"I want to thank the wonderful parishioners of Assumption for the generous sharing check. I and the parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows are deeply grateful for your continued generosity. ... This past Sunday the parish celebrated the First Holy Communion of six young members. Our little ones remind us that joy is found in child-like trust in the Lord. . . . Please know that I am remembering you and your intentions in my prayers."

#### **MEMORIAL DAY**

On Memorial Day, Monday May 26, we honor and pray for the men and women who served in the Armed Forces, especially those who died in combat. Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 and 10:30 on May 26.

### WELCOMING NEW CATHOLICS

It is not too early to be thinking about being part of the OCIA Class of 2025-26. OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for those over the age of 18 who were never baptized, never made their first communion, or who are baptized in another Christian religion and want to explore becoming Catholic. It is a group experience that meets on Sunday mornings from September to May. This past year we had a separate OCIA group for those 8 to 18 and we will have it again if there is a need. Contact Fr. Joe for more information.

#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**



There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction on Monday May 19 from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

#### ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS



Assumption Young Adults is having a pizza party this Sunday evening May 18, following the 5:00pm Mass. AYA

is for anyone in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They participate in a number of social, spiritual, and service activities during the year. Find out more by emailing assumptionaya@gmail.com

#### **CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF CREATION**

All are invited to attend an ecumenical prayer service on Pentecost Sunday, June 8 at 3:00pm at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral (1017 N LaSalle) as Catholic Bishop Lawrence Sullivan and other Christian leaders gather to celebrate the Mystery of Creation as the foundational event in salvation history. The Service also marks the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, which stated definitively the Christian belief in God's salvific, creative act. A reception will follow immediately after the service.

**HYMNS:** #538, #347, #603 (except 5pm Sunday)

## **WEDDINGS:**

**ZACHARY LEVY & MADISON ADAMS** THEO KADJO & SHANTEL JONES BRIAN KEENAN & MARY BERKEMEYER TRAVIS BAKER & DANA PISTEY GIANFRANCO PARICO & SHANNON SI RYAN O'CONNOR & NATALIE ZAJESKI RAKESH KUMAR & KATHARINE McCORMICK **CLINT SMALLEY & KATIE McNAMEE** 

# **BAPTISMS: ELIZA JANITZ**

#### PRAY FOR THEM

Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Mike Foster.

#### MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF MAY 17, 2025

17th 5:00 † John Campbell Sat Sun 18th 7:30 The Dubuque Family 9:00 Assumption Parishioners 10:30 Delphine Michalik 12:15 † Rita Cecelia Clemmer 5:00 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko,

Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families 7:00 Olivia Landgren (b'day)

Wed 21st Thurs 22nd 7:00 † Luther Jones & Family

23rd 7:00 † Jill Palkovitz Fri

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REFUGEE ASSISTANCE GROUP: Assumption's Refugee Assistance Group has partnered with Catherine's Caring Cause, an organization that assists families who have sought refuge in the United States. For almost a year, our parish has been helping with rent and food expenses and transportation for Virginia and her six children who have come to Chicago as humanitarian parolees. Son, Emiliano, five years old, is being successfully treated for leukemia at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. For the second year in a row, Assumption is supporting the women and children of Bethany House by contributing funds to host a Mother's Day party for the moms and the kids. The Refugee Assistance Group welcomes participants and ideas for projects. For more information, email refugee@assumption-chgo.org. Donations are always welcome and can be made on Assumption's online giving platform. Donations should be directed to Project Refugee.

JOIN THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Love coffee, donuts, and fellowship? We're looking for friendly faces to join our Hospitality Ministry and help organize, host, and enhance Hospitality Sundays. Whether you're a seasoned host or just love connecting with people, we'd love your help and fresh ideas. Contact Danielle at hospitality@assumption-chgo.org if interested.



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