



Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

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Statement of Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC on the Election of Pope Leo XIV

May 8, 2025

Along with the rest of the Church I was overjoyed to see Pope Leo XIV step out onto the balcony of St. Peter's. It was quite an emotional moment to realize he was an American and it is a great honor for the Church in our country. It was wonderful to hear his first words, "Peace be with you," taken from the Risen Jesus as a request for peace for the whole world.

It was also significant to hear him pay homage to his predecessor Pope Francis. We can be sure Pope Leo will continue encouraging us to reach out to all people with the Gospel, to be a Church on mission. His choice of name is also very meaningful as Pope Leo XIII is renowned as the father of modern Catholic social doctrine which lays out our obligation to uphold the dignity of all people, especially the suffering and marginalized.

Personally, I look to him as our supreme pastor but also as a brother bishop with whom I share responsibility to care for the faithful in our diocese. I invite Catholics and people of good will to pray for our new Holy Father as he begins his Petrine ministry.

Your Brother in Christ,

Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC

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