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May 18, 2025

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Go Make Disciples



First American pope: White Sox fan, Villanova grad, Peru missionary, Vatican leader

By Maria Wiering
OSV News

(OSV News) – Standing on loggia of Saint Peter’s basilica, newly elected Pope Leo XIV smiled, waved and appeared to hold back emotion May 8 as he introduced himself to

the world as the 266th successor to Saint Peter – the first American to hold that role.

His first words: “Peace be with you!”

Pope Leo, 69, formerly Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, is the first pope from the United States. He assumes

the chair of Peter with multifaceted leadership experience: He grew up in the Midwest, graduated from Augustinian-run Villanova University in 1977 with a math degree, ministered as a bishop in Peru, and led the

continued on page 10

Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

We have a pope!

During the recent conclave there was intense speculation (and even wagering) about who would step onto the balcony of Saint Peter’s Basilica after the white smoke cleared and solemn proclamation rang out, “Habemus Papam.”

One commentator was confident that he already knew the identity of the man. “It will be the pope!” Period. Full stop. That is, it will be the one the Holy Spirit has chosen for us at this moment in history.

Habemus Papam! Catholics throughout the world were filled with joy, hope and more than a little surprise at the election of the 267th Bishop of Rome, the Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church.

The election of Leo XIV as our new pope is so captivating because of who the pope is to the people of God. It is no exaggeration to say that the pope embodies the faithfulness of Christ to his Church.

Our Lord promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against his Church. He assured us of this, declaring that he would build his Church upon a firm foundation, upon the rock of Saint Peter the Apostle.

Peter had confessed that Jesus was not simply another prophet or wise teacher, but that he was the Messiah, the Son of God. His Holiness, Leo XIV, is the successor of Saint Peter and his mission.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, expressed this poignantly at the Mass “pro eligendo Romano Pontifice” opening the conclave, “The election of the new pope is not a simple succession of persons, yet it is always the Apostle Peter who returns.”

“It is always Peter who returns.” The promise of Christ – which Peter embodies – is fulfilled in Leo XIV. Christ has not left us orphans. He has given us his vicar on earth to guide the Church in its mission of confessing Christ.

There even is an added and immediate affinity for those of us who are citizens of the United States since Pope Leo was born and raised among us. He is an American from Chicago. He even served at Cascia Hall High School in Tulsa (run by the Augustinian religious order in which

he was formed).

To be honest, I never thought I would see the day when we would have an American pope! It is my prayer that the Church in our country – seeing one of our own on the Chair of Saint Peter – will become ever more closely bound in filial affection and communion to the Church of Rome.

Pope Leo XIV not only brings the vibrancy and vitality of the Church in the United States to his service of the Petrine Ministry, but he also brings the breadth and depth of his service as a priest and bishop in Peru and as a leader regionally and globally within the Order of Saint Augustine.

Most recently he had been tasked as Prefect for the Dicastery of Bishops, assisting Pope Francis in choosing bishops throughout the world, which undoubtedly gave him a broad and deep grasp of the realities facing the many particular churches.

He is an accomplished administrator as a religious superior, diocesan bishop and curial prefect. He is a scholar of ecclesial law holding both a licentiate and doctorate in Canon Law. He is a missionary shepherd with a preferential concern for the disenfranchised, the downtrodden and the destitute. He is the pastor given to the Holy Catholic Church for this time in history.

As an Augustinian friar he is a spiritual son of Saint Augustine and ascribes a great deal of his formation to the saint’s patronage. The charism of this religious order is to build a communion of mind and heart in walking together to God.

I expect Pope Leo will bring this great emphasis on communion, unity and charity to the Universal Church. He already taught us from the balcony of Saint Peter’s Basilica about the need to build bridges, but only after calling Jesus Christ the bridge by which God and his love reach us.

Peter is the rock upon which Jesus Christ builds the communion of his Church, and Peter returns to us in Leo XIV!



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

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By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on soonercatholic.org.

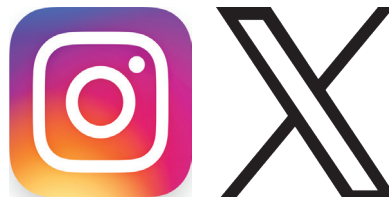
✔ **To send photos**, event information or story ideas, e-mail communications@archokc.org.

✔ **For the new shepherd** of the Catholic Church, Pope Leo XIV. May he receive God’s guidance, strength and protection in his role as the Vicar of Christ.

✔ **The Oklahoma March for Life** Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. June 7 at St. Joseph Old Cathedral, 307 N.W. 4 St. in Oklahoma City. The march will begin at 10:30 a.m. The rally will be at 11:45 a.m. on the capitol steps. Speakers include Archbishop Coakley and Sen. James Lankford.



Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton had a May Crowning on May 1. Photo provided.



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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among
women and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now and
at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Catholic educators urge Supreme Court to uphold their freedom to serve communities in need

Court hears oral arguments for St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School v. Drummond

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On April 30, attorneys presented oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School v. Drummond – a case challenging the exclusion of schools of all faiths from a program that supports privately operated charter schools in Oklahoma.

In June 2023, St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School was approved to join the more than 30 privately operated charter schools offering diverse learning options to families across Oklahoma. The school was set to open to interested families for the 2024-2025 academic year until Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond sued to block it. In June 2024, the Oklahoma Supreme Court sided with Drummond, ruling that the state could not partner with a religious school, shuttering St. Isidore before it could open.

The school, joined by representatives from Oklahoma’s Statewide Charter School Board, and the United States Solicitor General, argued to the Supreme Court that its exclusion from this program violates basic constitutional rights, unlawfully discriminates against people of faith, and denies critical educational opportunities to families who need them most.

“We are grateful that the U.S. Supreme Court heard our case and now entrust it to their

wisdom,” said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley and Bishop David A. Konderla of Oklahoma. “Of course, we pray and hope for a decision that stands with religious liberty and the rights of Oklahoma families to make their own decisions in selecting the best educational options for their children.”

“As any parent knows, education is not one size fits all and every child benefits from additional learning options,” said Michael Scaperlanda, chairman of St. Isidore’s Board of Directors. “Families across Oklahoma eagerly welcomed the opportunities presented by our virtual school. They encouraged us to appeal when the lower court ruled against us solely because of our religious beliefs. Today, we asked the Supreme Court for the simple freedom to serve those families.”

“A school like St. Isidore would be a godsend for my children, who don’t have access to anything like this in our hometown,” said Roger Harrison, a Spiro resident. “I am proud to see St. Isidore fight to bring this school to families like us who need these opportunities.”

“If the First Amendment stands for anything, it is that the government cannot exclude people because of their beliefs,” John Meiser, counsel to St. Isidore and Director of Notre Dame Law School’s Religious Liberty Clinic. “Today, we

called upon the Court to reinforce that bedrock principle. The Attorney General’s discriminatory quest to deny parents a new educational option violates the Constitution and benefits no one.”

“The Court has repeatedly held that states cannot offer to support all privately operated schools except those that are religious,” said Michael McGinley, counsel of record to St. Isidore and partner at Dechert LLP. “Today, we urged the Court to uphold that rule, which promises St. Isidore the right to take part in Oklahoma’s charter school program.”

“As arguments today underscored, St. Isidore does not ask the Court to break new constitutional ground,” said Nicole Stelle Garnett, John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School. “The Supreme Court has made abundantly clear that Oklahoma cannot discriminate against religious organizations in a program that supports privately operated schools. That is true whether Oklahoma chooses to call those privately operated schools ‘public’ or not.”

A team of attorneys from Notre Dame Law School’s Lindsay and Matt Moroun Religious Liberty Clinic, Dechert LLP, and Perri Dunn PLLC represents St. Isidore in the case. A decision is expected by the end of June.

Fr. Stephen Jones witnesses ‘momentous occasion’ with more to come

Father Stephen Jones, soon to join Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond as an associate pastor, has spent most of the year in Rome following his ordination to the priesthood last June. He’s experienced the death and funeral of Pope Francis and he’ll be watching the election of the next pope. Father Jones is also a “reporter on the ground” of sorts for Sooner Catholic, providing stories of these historic days. Here is his first installment.

I was fortunate to meet Pope Francis on a few occasions. The first time as a seminarian was certainly the most memorable.

I introduced myself by saying, “Holy Father, my name is Stephen Jones. I am from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.” He replied by asking rhetorically, “Oh, so you’re a cowboy then?” He also used an imaginary six-shooter to playfully shoot me a time or two. It was a wonderful moment that welcomed me to Rome. He had an amazing and playful sense of humor.

His death was certainly a shock in Rome. I woke up Monday morning and was having coffee in my room when I received a text that he had died earlier that morning. It was a surprise because just the day before he had been in Saint Peter’s square to give the traditional Easter Urbi et Orbi (To the

city and to the world) blessing.

Soon afterwards, the bells all began to ring at the churches throughout the city. I am fortunate to minister as a priest to an American university here in Rome that hosts study abroad students every semester (the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota). So, on that same Monday night, I headed out like normal to hear confessions and lead a Holy Hour of prayer with my students.

It was a beautiful moment for us to come together and offer our prayers for the happy repose of the soul of Pope Francis.

The funeral was a momentous occasion to come together as a Church and say farewell to our spiritual father and offer prayers in hope for his eternal rest. Saint Peter’s square and the whole Via della Concilizione leading up to Saint Peter’s was packed with pilgrims who had come to pray for the pope.

I was able to concelebrate the funeral Mass with a number of my classmates, who likewise were fortunate enough to have met the Holy Father on a number of occasions.

As I write this article in the nine-day mourning period for Pope Francis, the eyes of the city have begun to move forward to the beginning of the conclave on May 7. There is a palpable sense of hope that the College of Car-



Fr. Stephen Jones concelebrated the funeral Mass for Pope Francis with classmates on April 26 in St. Peter’s square. Photos provided.

dinals will prayerfully choose a worthy successor to Saint Peter as the next pope.

May we also unite our prayers

as the Church that they may be open to the movements of the Holy Spirit and choose worthily and wisely!

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

The following events are part of Archbishop Coakley’s official calendar.

May 18 – Confirmation, 8 a.m., St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, Norman
May 18 – Mystagogy Mass, 3 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, Catholic Pastoral Center
May 20 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
May 20 – Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
May 20 – Mount St. Mary Catholic High School graduation, 7 p.m., OCCC
May 21 – Confirmation, 6:340 p.m., St. Andrew Dung-Lac Catholic Church, Oklahoma City
May 22 – Vocations Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
May 22 – Confirmation, 6 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Enid
May 24 – Confirmation, 10 a.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
May 24 – Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School graduation, 1 p.m., Rose State College Hudiburg Center, Midwest City
May 25 – Confirmation, 11 a.m., Corpus Christi Catholic Church, OKC
May 26 – Episcopal Installation, Kansas City, Kansas
May 27-30 – Archdiocesan Convocation of Priests
May 31 – Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., St. Mary Catholic Church, Clinton
June 1 – Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Kingfisher
June 1 – National Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage (Christ the King to St. Eugene), 2 p.m., OKC



**Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley**

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Volume 47, Number 9

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The Sooner Catholic
(USPS 066-910) is published
biweekly except for once in
January and July by the
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The newspaper is not responsible
for unsolicited material.
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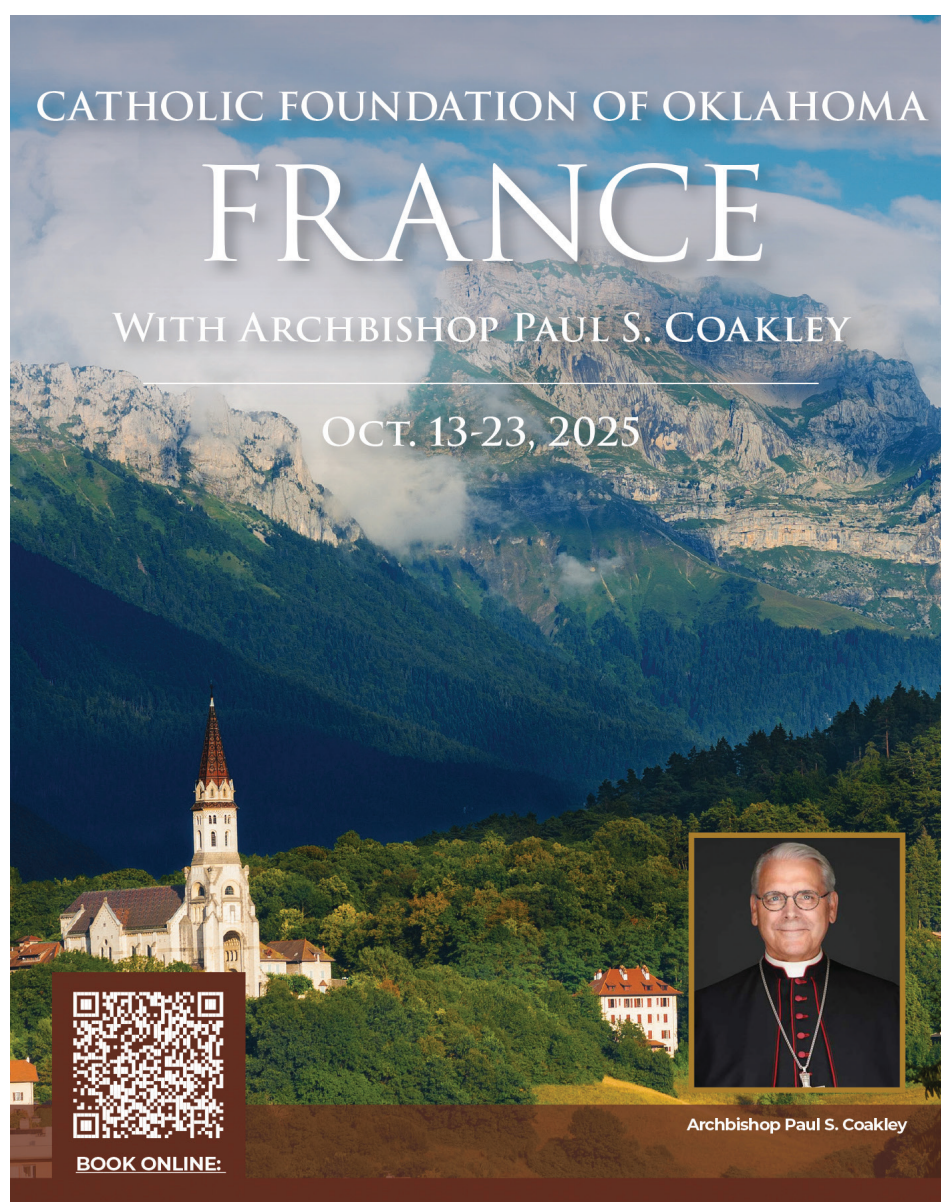
Subscription rate: \$35 per year
for all who are not members of the
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.
Periodical postage paid at
Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to the Sooner Catholic,
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City,
OK 73123.



The Sooner Catholic
is supported through the
Annual Catholic Appeal and Sooner
Catholic Communications Appeal.

The annual Convocation of Deacons was held April 26 at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Oklahoma City. Archbishop Coakley celebrated Mass in the St. Francis de Sales Chapel, provided instructions to the deacons and the deacons renewed their ordination promises to the archbishop. They had lunch together and Fr. Don Wolf delivered the keynote address on his cousin, Bl. Stanley Rother, and the service he provided for 13 years to the people of Guatemala. Dcn. Max Schwarz of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche received an icon of St. Lawrence for 25 years of diaconal service. Dcn. Angus Watford, retired, was recognized with an icon of the Holy Family in his 40th year as a permanent deacon in the archdiocese. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*



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Edmond student artfully designs her future

By Everett Brazil, III
The Sooner Catholic

From stage to dance to the visual arts, there isn't much Charlotte Kennedy can't do to creatively express herself. For Kennedy, it's been a life immersed in the arts. And it will continue as such.

A student at Sedes Sapientiae Schole, located at Saint Monica Catholic Church in Edmond, Kennedy has received a scholarship – the presidential scholarship – to Benedictine College in Kansas, where she will ramp up a path to a career in the arts, planning, too, to promote God as part of that career.

"While at Benedictine, I will be studying a classical form of art," she said, "but after college, continuing in my career in art."

A member of Saint Mary Catholic Church in Guthrie, Kennedy's experiences in the arts are lengthy.

"She's always been an artist," said her mother, Rachel, who coached her on the stage in theater at the Sedes Sapientiae Schole. "She takes an art class in Edmond, and it really started with the basics, when you learn to draw first, before you do anything else."

Charlotte is clear about what form of art she wants to study, that of graphic arts, illustration.

"As I continue my artistic career, I would like to pursue graphic novels as an artistic medium," she said.

Many a comic book or graphic novel can seem dark in terms of the illustrations, but she would like to bring a positive spin to the books. "They are so much fun," she said. "They are exciting, they can tell stories people read,

adults and children alike."

On the path to the scholarship, Charlotte worked hard in preparing to apply, but also had to present a strong portfolio, and finally present herself to a board on a chosen subject.

"The presidential scholarship is something you're invited to compete in when you apply to Benedictine College," Rachel said.

Part of a weekend on campus included a tour of the college. Her family was not disappointed about where her life would continue moving forward.

"We were very impressed with what we saw at Benedictine College," said her father, Brian.

Part of the competition also included an essay contest. Kennedy aced all the criteria, leading to a full scholarship. Her teachers were hardly surprised.

"I couldn't be prouder of her," said Andrea Lubitz, a literature drama educator. "She works with excellence in everything she does."

Lubitz has high praise for her stage presence.

"On the stage, she always had one of the lead roles," she said. "She's very eclectic on the stage, and plays in many different types of roles, and shines in all of them."

Brianna Osborne, another teacher who has worked with Charlotte, said what a positive moment it is to see a promotion of her talents coming to fruition.

"She has a lot of enthusiasm for art, and everything we do in literature class. I've enjoyed watching her acting, as well," Osborne said.

Lubitz said, "I think in a world today where people don't value art as much, it is refreshing to see someone rewarded."

Of course, Charlotte is pretty excited herself.



Charlotte Kennedy, left, recently earned the Presidential Scholarship to Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, which will provide her a full education at the Catholic college. Also pictured is Andrew Duque, Charlotte's Benedictine College admissions counselor, who hand-delivered the scholarship announcement to her home in Guthrie. *Photo provided.*

"As the weeks go by," she said, "I am extraordinarily excited of beginning my education at Benedictine College."

Everett Brazil, III is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



The department of Catholic education for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City presented the second Fine Arts Expo on May 3 at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Oklahoma City. The event featured artwork and performances from Catholic school students in the archdiocese. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*



May 31 – June 3

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY



As the three-year National Eucharistic Revival in the United States draws to a close on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the national committee is excited to launch the St. Katharine Drexel Route from Indianapolis to Los Angeles.

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The 2025 Drexel Route opens with a Mass of Thanksgiving in Indianapolis and the team of perpetual pilgrims will travel with the Blessed Sacrament through parts of the Midwest and along the states of the Southwestern United States. This year's pilgrimage route, including the Oklahoma City, will include numerous opportunities to encounter Jesus at daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions and witness talks. Learn more about the events in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City by visiting archokc.org/nep

Saturday, May 31

Saint Gregory's Abbey - Shawnee

2 - 3:30 p.m. Hand-off Ceremony from Diocese of Tulsa to Archdiocese of Oklahoma City with Eucharistic Procession on the abbey grounds and Eucharistic Adoration in the church

Saint Joseph - Norman

7 - 8 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour

Sunday, June 1

Christ the King to Saint Eugene - OKC

2 - 4 p.m. Eucharistic procession from Christ the King to Saint Eugene Catholic Church

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

7 - 8:30 p.m. SUMMIT - Adoration, Confession and Music

Tuesday, June 3

Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine - OKC

10 - 11:30 a.m. Eucharistic procession on shrine grounds

12:15 p.m. Daily Mass in the church



Eucharistic pilgrims hoping to share their 'encounter with the Lord'

By John Helsley
The Sooner Catholic

Charlie McCullough carried great expectations last summer as a professional pilgrim on the journey that was the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

The experience exceeded the expectations. "An incredible experience where I got to see the power of Jesus bring dioceses together, bring people together," he said. "And especially during the Eucharistic procession and periods of adoration,

I saw the Lord encounter his people and show them mercy and bring them hope in a new way that I had never seen before.

"It was really an experience of seeing the Lord give his people hope for the future and hope for the Church and hope

for their lives. One of the biggest blessings I've had in my life. I was privileged to be that close to the Lord for those nine weeks last summer."

So why not do it again?

McCullough is back, this time as team leader, guiding a group of seven first-time pilgrims on the Drexel Route of the 2025 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage due to pass

through the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City May 31-June 3.

The Drexel Route is named for Saint Katharine Drexel, who made a significant impact in Oklahoma, particularly through her work with Native Americans and African Americans. She founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to serve those communities, establishing numerous schools and missions.

The pilgrimage begins in Indianapolis May 18 before the team will travel with the Blessed Sacrament through parts of the Midwest, including Oklahoma, before heading to Texas and along the states of the Southwestern United States and on to California, concluding Corpus Christi weekend in Los Angeles.

Here in the archdiocese, there are a number of planned events, including a Eucharistic procession on the grounds of Saint Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, another procession from Oklahoma City parishes traveling from Christ the King to Saint Eugene and a visit to the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine.

"One of the young people I went to college with in Texas was a distant relative of (Blessed Stanley)," McCullough said. "So he was really happy to share the story of Blessed Stanley."

"And I'm really excited to visit the shrine because I know it's a place of evangelization for the diocese with a lot of people who visit and encounter the Lord, and it's just a beautiful story of one of his servants."

For Leslie Reyes-Hernandez, a school teacher in Arizona and one of the first-time pilgrims, just preparing for the journey has already been an uplifting experience for her and the team.

"We had the opportunity to meet virtually in January and then in February we had a retreat in St. Louis," she said. "So we had the opportunity to grow closer together, wheth-

er that was in friendship or sharing our hearts. That was really fruitful.

"I'm really looking forward to the pilgrimage itself, so we can continue growing as a team and working together."

Catholics throughout the archdiocese are welcome to encourage and join the pilgrims on several occasions.

"The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has participated in the National Eucharistic Revival and seen remarkable success in promoting Eucharistic reverence and devotion," said Father Zak Boazman, pastor at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche. "We now have another opportunity to celebrate this great gift of our faith as we join the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passing through Oklahoma City."

"I remember the beautiful procession we made three years ago from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School to the cathedral. And now we set our sights on a new chapter of Eucharistic devotion as a local church. What better way to honor this great mystery than by joining this pilgrimage."

John Helsley is editor of the Sooner Catholic.



Leslie Reyes-Hernandez



Charlie McCullough



A Eucharistic procession was held on June 19, 2022, in Oklahoma City. Photo Diane Clay/Sooner Catholic.

Photos (top) eucharisticpilgrimage.org.



On Feb. 25, nine men from the Great Plains Correctional Center in Hinton were received into full communion with the Catholic Church to join the already large community that gathers weekly for Rosary and Mass or communion service. Dcn. Jim Smith and many volunteers lead prayers and faith studies weekly and the yearly Kolbe Retreat produces Catholic fruit among this community. David H., a parishioner of St. Eugene Catholic Church in Weatherford, made an altar for the use of the Catholic liturgy within the GPCC facility. *Photos provided.*



First Holy Communion, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Alva. *Photo provided.*



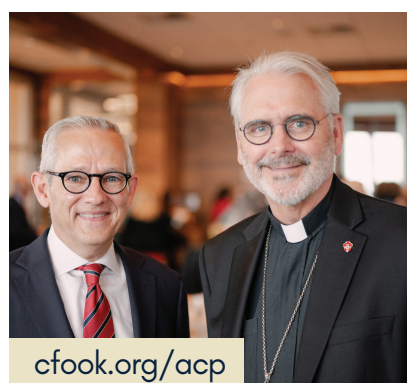
First Holy Communion, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Hobart. *Photo provided.*



First Holy Communion, St. Mary Catholic Church, Ponca City. *Photo Everett Brazil, III/Sooner Catholic.*



First Holy Communion, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Newkirk. *Photo Everett Brazil, III/Sooner Catholic.*



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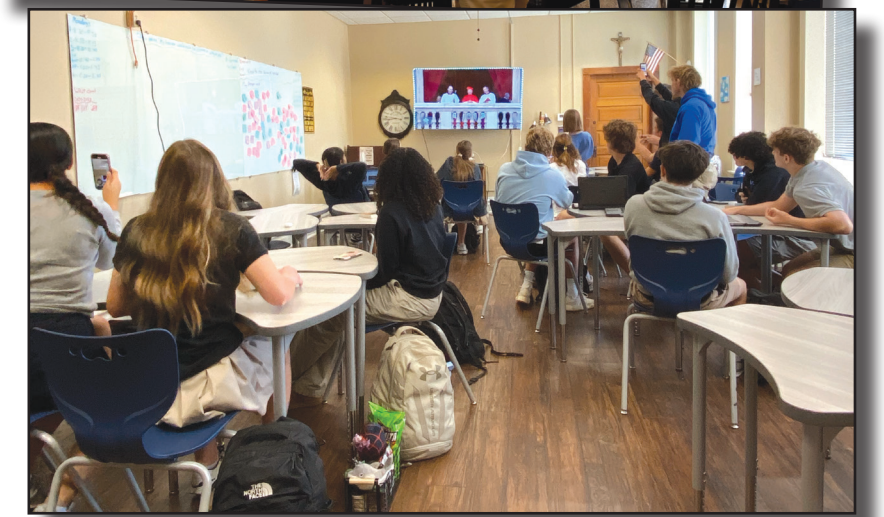


Habemus Papam

Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City watched as the new pope, American Cardinal Robert Prevost, was elected on May 8.



Fr. Rick Stansberry and students from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School watched TV and waited for the new pope to be introduced. *Photos Aimee Martinez/BMCHS.*



Mount St. Mary Catholic High School students watched TV as the new pope was introduced. *Photos MSM.*

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Pope Leo XIV carried a white rose to the tomb of Pope Francis in Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major May 10. CNS photo/ Vatican Media.

continued from page 1

Vatican dicastery that helps appoint, form and retire bishops.

Born in Chicago and ordained a priest for the Order of Saint Augustine in 1982, Pope Leo held major leadership roles in his religious community before being ordained a bishop in 2014, ministering in the dioceses of Chiclayo and Callao, Peru. He was installed as the prefect of the Holy See's Dicastery for Bishops – the powerful Vatican body responsible for choosing bishops throughout the world – in April 2023 and was elevated that September to the rank of cardinal.

In 2013, as he prepared to leave his role as the Augustinians' global leader, he told Rome Reports that Augustinians "are called to live a simple life at the service of others, and in a special way, to reach out to those who are poor ... which includes, of course those who are monetarily poor, but there are many kinds of poverty in today's world."

Pope Leo was born in suburban south Chicago on Sept. 14, 1955. His family attended Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish in Dolton, Illinois, and he is reportedly of Italian, French and Spanish descent. In 1977, Pope Leo entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine in St. Louis. In September 1978, at the age of 22, he professed first vows, and three years later, he made solemn vows.

He earned a theology degree at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago before going to Rome to study canon law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, also known as the Angelicum, receiving his licentiate in 1984. Three years later, he completed his doctorate, writing on "The role of the local prior in the Order of Saint Augustine."

By the time he received his doctorate, he had been ordained a priest for the Order of Saint Augustine for five years and had ministered for a year in the order's mission of Chulucanas in Piura, Peru.

In 1987, he was elected the vocations director and missions director for his order's Midwest province, Our Mother of Good Counsel. A year later, he went to Trujillo, Peru, to direct a joint formation project for the region's Augustinian aspirants. Over the course of a decade in Trujillo, he served as the community's prior, formation director and as a teacher. Meanwhile, he served the Archdiocese of Trujillo for nine years as its judicial vicar and was also a professor of canon, patristic and moral law in the San Carlos e San Marcelo Major Seminary, which is currently celebrating its 400th anniversary.

In 1999, Pope Leo returned to the U.S. to serve as prior provincial for the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel. In 2001, at age 46, he was promoted to his order's prior general, considered its supreme authority that oversees its administration and governance.

Pope Leo was reelected to the role in 2007, holding it for a total of 12 years until 2013. Under his leadership, the Augustinian provinces in North America reorganized in 2012 as the Federation of the Augustinians of North America, which fostered greater collaboration while allowing each province some autonomy.

For a year, from October 2013 to November 2014, he served as a "teacher of the professed" and provincial vicar.

In November 2014, Pope Francis appointed him apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chiclayo, Peru -- an area in the northwestern part of the country that was then home to around 1.1 million Catholics, about 88% of the population at the time. He was simultaneously named a bishop, but of the titular diocese Sufar, under which title he was ordained a month later on Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The following year, on Nov. 7, 2015, he was appointed bishop of Chiclayo. He also served for a year, from April 2020 to May 2021, as the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Callao, Peru, whose see city is nearly 500 miles south of Chiclayo along the Peruvian coast.

In 2019, Pope Francis appointed him a member of the Congregation for the Clergy. A year later, he became a member of the Congregation for Bishops.

In January 2023, Pope Leo was appointed to lead the Vatican's Dicastery of Bishops, replacing the Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, and given the personal title of archbishop. Pope Francis elevated him to a cardinal in September 2023, making him cardinal-deacon of Santa Monica of the Augustinians, a church immediately south of the Vatican dedicated to Saint Monica, Saint Augustine's mother. He was the first – and so far only – cardinal named to that church.

Speaking to The Associated Press after being made a cardinal in 2023, Pope Leo XIV said, "I think that it's not coincidental that Pope Francis chose me. I've been a missionary my whole life, and I was working in Peru, but I am American, and I think I do have some insights into the church in the United States."

He continued: "So, the need to be able to advise, work with Pope Francis and to look at the challenges that the church in the United States is facing, I hope to be able to respond to them with healthy dialogue, as we've already begun, with all the bishops in the United States, and to continue to look for ways to be church in the day and age that we're living."

In 2023, Pope Francis also named then-Cardinal Prevost president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, which studies and assists the church in Latin America.

Pope Leo's name is an apparent tribute to Pope Leo XIII, known as the father of Catholic social doctrine, who wrote the groundbreaking 1891 social encyclical "Rerum Novarum," also known as "On the Condition of

the Working Classes," that responded to the state of industrial society at the time. With the third-longest recorded papacy (with Saint John Paul II holding spot No. 2), Pope Leo XIII led the church from 1878 until his death in 1903.

Despite connecting himself to a pope who reigned more than 120 years ago, Pope Leo XIV appears to be a thoroughly modern prelate who keeps tabs on current events in Rome, Latin America and the U.S. Under "Robert Prevost," Leo XIV has maintained an X account with sporadic, mostly news-based retweets, such as requests in February to pray for Pope Francis and rebukes of Vice President JD Vance's comments on the ordering one's loves, or "ordo amoris," a Catholic concept Vance tried to invoke to justify Trump's immigration policy.

Pope Leo XIV reportedly enjoys playing tennis; speaks English, Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese; and reads Latin and German. According to a May 8 interview with his brother John Prevost, Pope Leo is a Chicago White Sox fan – and never cheered for baseball rival Chicago Cubs.

"He was never, ever a Cubs fan," the pope's brother emphasized.

At age 69, Pope Leo is seven years younger than Pope Francis was when he was elected in 2013, and nine years younger than Benedict XVI when he was elected in 2005. He is 11 years older than Saint John Paul II, who was 58, at his 1978 election.

Pope Leo was likely elected on the third vote of the conclave's second day, after a total of four votes. The 133 cardinal electors entered the conclave on the afternoon of May 7, with the closing of the doors of the Sistine Chapel broadcast live by Vatican Media.

The conclave was the largest and most geographically diverse conclave known in history, with cardinals representing 69 countries across five continents with greater percentages of participating cardinals from Africa, Asia and Latin America than in other recent conclaves. By contrast, 115 cardinal electors – half of them from Europe – participated in the 2013 conclave that elected Pope Francis. In the 2025 conclave, 43% of electors were from Europe.

Prior to the conclave, the cardinal electors met for 12 general congregations, during which they shared their hopes, concerns and priorities for the church. The topics highlighted ranged widely, from evangelization, caring for the poor and addressing clergy sexual abuse, to the economy, peace-building efforts and synodality.

Many of the world's 252 cardinals, including those over age 80 who were no longer eligible to elect a pope, were already in or arrived in Rome within days of Pope Francis' death April 21. More than 220 cardinals, including then-Cardinal Prevost, attended his funeral on April 26.

Pope Leo has been commended for his interpersonal skills, with veteran American Vatican journalist John Allen Jr. of Crux describing him as "a moderate, balanced figure, known for solid judgment and a keen capacity to listen."

Pope Leo has also drawn criticism for his alleged role in the permissions given in 2000 for a priest of the Chicago Archdiocese, who had been credibly accused of multiple cases of child abuse, to live in an Augustinian friary less than a block from a school without informing the school.

While that situation occurred before the 2002 Dallas Charter, within which the U.S. bishops established procedures for addressing clergy sexual abuse, then-Bishop Prevost has also been accused of not fully investigating three sisters' sexual abuse allegations, made in 2022, against two priests in the Diocese of Chiclayo – a charge the diocese has denied.

The case has drawn global attention because as head of the Dicastery for Bishops, then-Cardinal Prevost oversaw cases of clergy negligence under the worldwide norms Pope Francis established in 2019 with "Vos Estis Lux Mundi."

As a dicastery head, then-Cardinal Prevost participated in both sessions of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on Synodality that Pope Francis led in 2023 and 2024.

In remarks given from Saint Peter's loggia before offering his first "urbi et orbi" blessing, Pope Leo commended Pope Francis' final blessing of the world on Easter morning, the day before he died, saying, "Let me follow up on that same blessing: God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! We are all in God's hands. Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and each other – let us go forward. We are disciples of Christ. Christ goes before us."

Pope Leo also indicated he would continue the legacy of Pope Francis in developing a synodal style within the Catholic Church for the sake of its Gospel mission.

"We want to be a synodal church," he said. "A church that walks, a church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close especially to those who suffer."

The Augustinians' Philadelphia-based Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova announced earlier this year that it was presenting its 2025 Saint Augustine Medal to then-Cardinal Prevost, with a celebration scheduled for Aug. 28, the feast of Saint Augustine.

In that 2013 Rome Reports interview, then-Father Prevost spoke about God and Saint Augustine, the fifth-century philosopher, theologian and bishop who inspired the formation of the Augustinians in 1244.

"God is not someone or something that is absent and far away," he said. "And Augustine, in his spirituality, in his struggles, in his reflections that we see, for example, in the 'Confessions,' is able to open a window ... and to lead others to come to discover how God is working in their lives."

Maria Wiering is senior writer for OSV News.

Pope Leo XIV: A biographical timeline

By Maria Wiering
OSV News

(OSV News) -- The following are key dates in the life and ministry of Pope Leo XIV, elected May 8, 2025, as the 266th successor to Saint Peter.

-- **1955:** Born Sept. 14 in the Chicago area.

-- **1977:** Graduated from Villanova University near Philadelphia and entered the novitiate for the Order of Saint Augustine in St. Louis.

-- **1978:** Professed first vows as a member of the Order of Saint Augustine.

-- **1981:** Professed solemn vows as a member of the Order of Saint Augustine.

-- **1982:** Ordained a priest of the Order of Saint Augustine.

-- **1984:** Earned a licentiate in canon law from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome.

-- **1985:** Sent to work in the mission of Chulucanas, in Piura, Peru, until 1986.

-- **1987:** Elected the vocations director and missions director for his order's Midwest province, Our Mother of Good Counsel.

-- **1988:** Moved to Trujillo, Peru, to direct a joint formation project for the region's Augustinian aspirants. Over the course of a decade in Trujillo, he served as the community's prior (1988-1992), formation director (1988-1998) and as an instructor (1992-1998).

-- **1989:** Began serving the Archdiocese of Trujillo for nine years as its judicial vicar; was also a professor of canon, patristic and moral law in the San Carlos e San Marcelo Major Seminary.

-- **1999:** Elected prior provincial for the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Chicago.

-- **2001:** Promoted to his order's prior general, considered its supreme authority that oversees its administration and governance. He was reelected to that role in 2007, holding it for a total of 12 years until 2013.

-- **2013:** Served for a year as a "teacher of the professed" and provincial vicar.

-- **2014:** Appointed by Pope Francis to be apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chiclayo, Peru. He was simultaneously named a bishop, but of the titular diocese Sufar, under which title he was ordained a month later on Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

-- **2015:** Appointed bishop of Chiclayo on Sept. 26.

-- **2018:** Served as second vice president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference until 2023.

-- **2019:** Appointed a member of the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy.

-- **2020:** While still bishop of Chiclayo, appointed apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Callao, Peru, a role he held until May 2021. He was also appointed to the Congregation for Bishops.

-- **2023:** Appointed prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, named president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and granted the title archbishop Jan. 30; installed in those roles April 12. On Sept. 30, elevated to the College of Cardinals.

-- **2025:** Elected pope May 8, taking the name Leo XIV.

Moments at the Mount

A Rocket landing to the school year

As the 2024-25 school year draws to a close, the Rockets have built in time for fellowship, prayer, the art, and preparations for saying goodbye to the Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Class of 2025.

Field Day 2025

On April 30, students and staff took part in MSM's annual Field Day festivities. Many students expressed gratitude for the time to simply have fun with their classmates and teachers before the final stretch of the year.

Maddie Biswell, senior: "So much fun. That's really all I can say. I was taking pictures in the gym of people doing basketball and dodgeball scrimmages for yearbook, but then I joined my friends, Maggie and Talayne, in the auditorium to watch "The Greatest Showman." It was so nice to relax before the craziness of May with finals and graduation approaching."

Students and staff were treated to a day of fellowship through board games, art projects, basketball and dodgeball. Earlier that morning, the school community gathered in the auditorium for "Faculty Follies," a spectacle of entertainment for students at the expense of faculty.

Starting with "Who's Most Likely To ..." Principal Laura Cain dunked teachers who students thought were the culprits of questions. Four staff members were soaked after 10 minutes of rapid-fire questions.

Those getting wet: Emily Strah (sophomore English), David Long (senior English), Kaleb Benda (band/choir director) and Alexander Weishan (government).

Other games consisted of staff members having to finish lyrics to popular songs and guess the identity of objects in "What's in the Box?" It was, indeed, a necessary



The Mount St. Mary Vocal Music Ensemble performed at the Heartland Music Festival on May 3 in Guthrie. *Photos Emma Bowman/Sooner Catholic.*



Principal Laura Cain dunked staff in water during Faculty Follies.



Drew Harris signed his letter of intent for seminary.

and welcome day of restoration for students and staff.

Opened hearts, minds, doors

Several senior students participated in a signing ceremony April 25 before the Rocket community to announce their commitment to attend college as an athlete.

Additionally, one senior student signed a very different letter of intent: to attend seminary this upcoming school year.

Drew Harris sat down to sign his letter after Father Jerome Krug gave a few remarks to attendees, "You all know Drew very well, seniors, especially. He is a daily inspiration to me in my own priest-

hood. Everyone here knows that he spends every single academic period in the chapel, growing closer to the Lord. It is amazing to see him take on this opportunity of listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit."

Drew signed his letter with Father Krug, Father John Paul Lewis and his parents practically beaming behind him. It was a beautiful moment for the Mount community to witness.

MSM music department on the road

The Mount St. Mary Instrumental Music Ensemble and Vocal Music Ensemble, both under the



Emma Bowman

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School

direction of Benda, spent May 3 on a joyride. Well, at least that's what members would call it.

Every year since Benda has stepped in as music director in 2020, both ensembles have traveled to contests and other events at which they can perform near the conclusion of the spring semester. This year was no exception. Both ensembles traveled to the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple to perform in the Heartland Music Festival. Known for its reputation as one of the most welcoming and enjoyable music festivals in Oklahoma for school ensembles to perform, members of the MSM music department enjoy the trip every year.

"Heartland is always my favorite every year," said Annamarie Brown, a senior and veteran MSM clarinet player. Nothing beats a bunch of band and choir kids on a bus singing to their favorite songs.

"Even though we always are a bit nervous before performances, we killed it this year and I had a blast. It was so memorable, especially since this was my fourth and final attendance."

Both ensembles were granted the award of sweepstakes. In other words, both earned a "1" score from all judges, which is the highest score a performance can receive. They later traveled to Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School to perform at the Archdiocesan Fine Arts Expo. The choir also sang at the Catholic Daughter's Conference that evening at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

Royals Report

Bells, blessings highlight end of year activities

Coming to an end

The end of the school year is coming to an end, but for the seniors a chapter of their lives is also coming to an end.

But not before some special events.

The seniors enjoyed their blessing of the robes Mass and the ringing of the bells event. During the blessing of the robes, the seniors celebrated Mass with their parents and the school community. Father Zak Boazman blessed the seniors and their robes. The students took pictures with their parents and other family members.

They also walked through the school hallways "one last time,"



The boys soccer team finished off an exciting season. *Photo provided.*

ringing the bells. The blessing of the robes and ringing of the bells

were the start of the final steps for our seniors. They will truly be



Mariana Carrera

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School

missed by the entire school.

Coming up: decision day, when the seniors will announce to our community where each is going to college or other plans are after high school.

continued on page 13

Irish Insights

BMCHS winds down with tests, art and more

With the school year coming to a close, students showcased their talents and hard work through art, dance and academics, celebrating a year of creativity, achievement and community.

Young students produce art

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School hosted families from across the Oklahoma City areas May 3 at the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Fine Arts Expo.

The exposition welcomed students from first through 12th grade, offering art displays, musical and speech performances and competition.

Olivia Donovan, a fourth-grade student at Saint John Nepomuk Catholic School, drew a "geode with lines and patterns in the background" for her second year entering the elementary competition.

"It makes me feel good and it makes me feel like I can express myself," Donovan said.

In addition, senior Cori Seymour entered her art into the 12th grade competition earning an honorable mention for her piece titled "unloveable." Though Seymour entered the contest, she believes that art is about more than competition.

"It's just about making something and resonating with other people," Seymour said.

Father Buettner celebrates final school Mass

In Father Rick Stansberry's absence, Father Brian Buettner celebrated the final all-school Mass of the 2024-2025 school year. Father Buettner, a McGuinness chaplain from 2013 to 2015, said it felt "awesome" to return to the school.

"Obviously a lot of students have changed, but it's really cool to see

a lot of the faculty that were here whenever I was here, and to see just the changes of even the chapel and everything," Father Buettner said. "There are a lot of things that have stayed the same, which is really cool."

Father Buettner now serves as pastor of Saint Thomas More Catholic Church at the University of Oklahoma.

DanceVisions puts on final showcase

On May 3, the DanceVisions



Fourth grade student Olivia Donovan stood by her drawing of a geode. She attends St. John Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon.

team held its final showcase of the year titled "Ignite."

Senior Olivia Pefferman, a four-year DV dancer, said the showcase aimed to "bring energy and build (the) team to something big."

"We wanted our show to be big and crazy and be representative of where we want to go as a team," Pefferman said. "We want to ignite the fire within our team."

As a senior, Pefferman said she was proud of her team in all the

forms it took throughout her four years.

"It was crazy, because I've been through many eras of that team, and I've seen us beyond many different things, but our show was 27 dances long, with nine dancers, which is insanely difficult," Pefferman said.

Students take on AP exams

The end of the school year brings the daunting challenge of studying for and taking AP exams. This year 185 McGuinness students took



Senior Cori Seymour stood next to her painting titled "unloveable." *Photos Kate Menz/Sooner Catholic.*

764 AP exams across 26 subjects. The exams were offered digitally for the first time.

Junior Courtney Lomoro said she prepared for her three AP exams beginning in April through practice problems and prompts online as well as her own notes. This year, Lomoro took the AP psychology, AP English language and composition and AP U.S. history exams.

"I think that this time of year is



Katherine Menz

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

really stressful, because there's AP tests, and then immediately following that, there's finals," Lomoro said.

Scholars honored

In celebration of student accomplishment, the school held a ceremony honoring the academic and class-related accomplishments. During the ceremony, students were awarded medals and certificates based on their accomplishments for best or second-best in their respective class.

Junior Molly Taylor was awarded a medal for her involvement in the yearbook class. Last year, Taylor won the certificate.

"It feels way better to win the medal," she said, "because I feel like I'm being appreciated for all the work that I did this year because I did a lot of work on the yearbook."

Sophomore Finley Cataldi claimed an award for leadership in her role as a school ambassador. In her role, Cataldi helps run school events and serve the Bishop McGuinness community under the guidance of Ambassador Adviser Courtney Mullinix.

"It feels pretty good because there's a lot of people that do it, including upperclassmen, and it feels good to know that Mrs. (Mullinix) trusts me and respects me enough to give me the award as a sophomore," Cataldi said.

Many thanks to the freshmen for hosting their very first spirit week and pep rally. With the school year

coming to an end, events like this make these last couple of weeks fun and memorable.



Members of the freshmen class ventured up Tepeyac Hill at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine. *Photo provided.*

Jobs Box

Associate judge - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an associate judge to work in the Archdiocesan Tribunal. The associate judge has the primary responsibility of ensuring that the rights and responsibilities of the Church and the faithful of the archdiocese are protected in all facets of the life of the Church, including but not limited to examination and adjudication of the canonical investigation of nullity of marriages. Other responsibilities include properly instructing canonical proceedings and serving as a resource for canonical advice as it relates to reviewing marital status in the Church. Licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L) is required. A minimum of three years of tribunal experience is preferred. Bilingual Spanish-speaking preferred. A background check and Safe Environment training will be required. To submit a cover letter and resume, visit archokc.org/jobs-box.

Grant program coordinator - OKC

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is seeking a grant program coordinator to manage board committees in their efforts to distribute grants from endowment and charitable funds to parishes, schools and the general Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Works with parishes, schools and other organizations and assists in the grant application and reporting process.

The coordinator is the foundation's primary point of contact and support for grantees and donor advisers, and provides information to the executive director, board of directors and grants committees. Helps publicize available grants and scholarships, sets deadlines for when applications are to be received, and vets all applications with corresponding selection committees. Should be active, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church, have excellent written and oral communication skills, an ability to learn new software, and enjoy interacting with others by phone and in person. To submit a cover letter and resume, visit archokc.org/jobs-box.

Assistant advancement director - OKC

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School is seeking an assistant advancement director to support and enhance advancement efforts. Must be passionate about Catholic faith, Catholic education and eager to help grow the school's philanthropy mission through strong communication, relationship building and organizational skills. Bachelor's degree required; two-plus years of experience in development, fundraising, communications or a related field preferred; strong written and verbal communication skills; exceptional organizational skills and attention to detail; comfort with database systems and Google drive; alignment with the mission and values

of a Catholic school community. Submit a cover letter, résumé and three professional references to advancement@bmchs.org. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Property caretaker - Lawton

Bl. Sacrament Catholic Church is seeking a part-time (25 hours per week) property caretaker to maintain a clean working environment for staff and visitors, ensuring all areas are safe. Provide cleaning services for all church buildings/property (except the rectory); perform a variety of building and facility maintenance duties throughout the parish buildings and property; work may include carpentry, electrical, plumbing, mechanical duties and groundskeeping. Follow rules of conduct including standards and policies. An Archdiocese of Oklahoma City safe environment background check is required. Contact Joanne Linville, office manager, at office@lawtoncatholic.com.

Senior director of development and outreach - OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a senior director of development and outreach to lead and manage the development and community/parish engagement department's support of agency long-term objectives, support program staff and all related activities. Primary functions include planning and execution of agency fundraising

strategies and supporting marketing, public relations, parish engagement, and volunteer coordination activities undertaken by supervised staff. Working closely with the executive director and senior staff to ensure that the mission objectives are funded and understood throughout central and western Oklahoma. Bachelor's degree in applicable field. Advanced degree preferred. Ten years of progressive fundraising and supervision experience or equivalent. History of soliciting single gifts of \$10,000 or more from corporations, foundations and individuals. Experience with event management of 400 or more guests. Send cover letter and resume to Nicole Curran at ncurran@ccaokc.org.

Organist - Kingfisher

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Kingfisher is seeking an organist for Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. Contact Choir Director Dennis Mueggenborg at (405) 368-0214.

Elementary teacher - Edmond

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School is seeking a certified teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Contact Principal Jenny Lang to learn more and apply at jjlang@seasok.org.

To see more job openings, go online to archokc.org/jobs-box.

Sr. Pamela Mitchell celebrates 40th Jubilee

Sinsinawa Dominican Sister Pamela Mitchell, O.P., celebrates her 40th jubilee in 2025.

Born to Shirley and Lee Mitchell in Sidney, Nebraska, she made profession as a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa in 1985. She received a BA in psychology from the University of Oklahoma, then went on to receive her Juris Doctor in law from the law school there. She earned her master's in social work from the University of

Minnesota.

Sister Pamela's ministry has been dedicated to social work, congregation leadership and missionary work. She currently lives in community in Madison, Wisconsin.

To honor Sister Pamela, visit sinsinawa.org/donate online.



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Making Sense of Bioethics

Is there any reason I shouldn't do yoga?

In the United States, there are roughly 30 million practitioners of yoga, alongside an expanding industry providing yoga-related products and services, classes, workshops and equipment. But many Christians ask whether Christians should be practicing yoga. Are there any spiritual issues raised by the practice?

The concerns regarding yoga largely revolve around whether one has a partial or a full understanding of what yoga is. A partial understanding of yoga is likely to support the notion that yoga is merely a physical posturing and stretching regimen with deep breathing intended to relieve anxiety and stress.

A fuller understanding of yoga, however, recognizes that it is a spirituality, extending beyond mere exercises to certain aspects of Eastern spirituality ranging from meditation to mantras to physical posturing and symbolic hand gestures designed to "awaken the power of the divine," where "divine" is often construed and pursued in a self-referential way.

Yoga is a philosophical and spiritual practice developed in India and has its roots in Hinduism. It is often associated with Eastern spirituality, even if it is not always practiced in an explicitly religious way.

Certain yoga traditions still retain strongly spiritual or religious components. Some yoga teachers or studios may incorporate elements of Hinduism or other Eastern spiritual traditions into their practice, which can make it difficult to separate yoga from religion.

Dave Fetcho, formerly of the Ananda Marga Yoga Society, has

argued, "Physical yoga, according to its classical definitions, is inherently and functionally incapable of being separated from Eastern religious metaphysics."

It is precisely those metaphysical and spiritual beliefs that raise concerns for faithful Christians. The Christian faith differs in fundamental ways from Eastern religious beliefs. Ultimately, the two perspectives make highly divergent claims about the nature of God, the human person, their relationship, and the person's ultimate destiny.

One example involves the notion of "kundalini."

Researcher John White describes a problematic "elevation" of man and an intense focus on man himself through the kundalini experience, which he describes as something akin to "divinizing" a person: "The word itself may not appear... but the concept is there... as a key to attaining godlike stature."

A popular image of kundalini is of a serpent slithering as divine energy from the lower regions of the spine through all the subtle body centers and making its way to the crown. This Kundalini energy is portrayed as an awakening of a dormant spirit, said to be coiled at the base of the spine waiting to be released through yoga.

Swami Vivekananda summarizes the experience of kundalini as follows: "When awakened through the practice of spiritual disciplines, it rises through the spinal column, passes through the various centers, and at last reaches the brain, whereupon the yogi experiences samadhi, or total absorption in the Godhead."

In describing this kundalini

awakening of the coiled snake energy in himself, Gopi Krishna writes: "It was variable for many years, painful, obsessive... I have passed through almost all the stages of... mediumistic, psychotic, and other types of mind; for some time I was hovering between sanity and insanity."

For Christians this may call to mind the biblical and cunning serpent who flattered our first parents by assuring them that through their disobedience they would "be like God" (Gen 3:5). The pursuit of kundalini through yoga can be mentally and spiritually dangerous, as these practices induce altered states of consciousness that can render practitioners more susceptible or available to demonic deception.

Approaching the question from another angle, the meditative dimensions of yoga also do not appear to be compatible with authentic Christian belief and prayer, which is a personal, communitarian, and transcendent, seeking of the person of Christ.

Yoga embodies an impersonal approach which concentrates on the interior self. For example, a common mantra repeated in yoga is "So'ham," which roughly translates, "I am the universal self." As noted in a 1989 Vatican "Letter To The Bishops of The Catholic Church on Some Aspects of Christian Meditation," there is the risk that such forms of meditation "can create a kind of rut, imprisoning the person in a spiritual privatism" that excludes or locks out any real openness to the transcendent God.

Catholics ought to avoid yoga because of these many significant spiritual concerns. Yet some say



Father Tad Pacholczyk
National Catholic Bioethics Center

that yoga helps them physically and psychologically.

"Catholics," said Jenny Dubay, a fitness professional and former avid yoga practitioner, "can and should stretch their bodies. There are many stretching techniques and movements that help enhance flexibility, release muscle tension after an intense workout, and promote relaxation. There's no need to engage in a yoga practice in order to gain these benefits."

Among the alternatives to yoga are ballet, water ballet, simple stretching, Pilates, Barre classes (which uses modified ballet and Pilates movements), or low-impact or water aerobics, as well as newer approaches which rely on explicitly Christian spiritual angles, such as PrayerMotion (developed by a Catholic Physician who claims its roots come from Benedictine monastic practices), PraiseMoves, Pietra Fitness, SoulCore and Catholic Fit.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See nbccenter.org and fathertad.com.

Book review: 'Mary Calling:' devotion for everyday of the year – experiencing Jesus in Mary's presence

By Br. Benet Exton, O.S.B.
The Sooner Catholic

The reader may first think from seeing the title that this book is like Sarah Young's book, "Jesus Calling," but the reader would be mistaken. The book is not like Young's book where Jesus speaks with the reader with some Scripture quotes. You would have to go to Sister Mary Kathleen Glavich's book, "Heart to Heart with Mary: a yearly devotion" which I have previously reviewed.

Jhonsen Sales' book might not be like Young's book, but it is a worthwhile read for reflection and meditation with Mary, the mother of God. As the title implies it is a yearly devotional. Sales starts each entry, which is usually a page long with the date and the theme of the entry. This is followed by a reflection which sometimes includes a Scripture quote. After that there are quotes from various saints,

like Saint Augustine, Saint John Chrysostom, Saint Bernard, Saint Ambrose and many other saints, from both the east and west. These are followed by a quote from The Catechism of the Council of Trent. The entry concludes with a final reflection from the author.

Each month has a theme. For example: January is Mary's Fiat-the power of surrender, March is the Annunciation-trusting God's promise, June is the Presentation-offering ourselves to God, August is Mary's sorrows-finding consolation in our suffering, September is Mary's Assumption-hope for eternal life. September's theme, I think should have been August since the Solemnity of the Assumption is Aug. 15 and September has the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. December's theme is Mary, our mother and

guide-journeying towards salvation.

Sales hopes this book will not only educate the readers about Mary but also deepen their relationship with Mary. There is no index or bibliographical references. There is

a table of contents and an introduction. There are no illustrations.

Jhonsen Sales is the author of several books on the topic of Mary and other Catholic topics. He lives in the Philippines with his wife. This book is recommended to people looking for devotional involving Mary, the mother of God. Sales provides material for reflection and meditation.

Br. Benet Exton, O.S.B., Saint Gregory's Abbey, Shaunee, is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

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Durante el reciente cónclave hubo intensas especulaciones (e incluso apuestas) sobre quién saldría al balcón de la Basílica de San Pedro después de que se disipara el humo blanco y sonara la solemne proclamación: “Habemus Papam”.

Un comentarista estaba seguro de conocer ya la identidad del hombre. “¡Será el Papa!”. Y Punto. Punto final. Es decir, será el que el Espíritu Santo ha elegido para nosotros en este momento de la historia.

¡Habemus Papam! La elección del 267° Obispo de Roma, Sumo Pontífice de la Iglesia Universal, ha llenado de alegría, esperanza y no poca sorpresa a los católicos de todo el mundo.

La elección de León XIV como nuestro nuevo Papa es tan cautivadora por lo que el Papa representa para el pueblo de Dios. No es exagerado decir que el Papa encarna la fidelidad de Cristo a su Iglesia.

Nuestro Señor prometió que las puertas del infierno no prevalecerán contra su Iglesia. Nos lo aseguró declarando que edificaría su Iglesia sobre cimientos firmes, sobre la roca del Apóstol San Pedro.

Pedro había confesado que Jesús no era simplemente otro profeta o sabio maestro, sino que era el Mesías, el Hijo de Dios. Su Santidad, León XIV, es el sucesor de San Pedro y de su misión.

El Cardenal Giovanni Battista Re, Decano del Colegio Cardenalicio, expresó conmovidamente en la Misa «pro eligiendo Romano

Pontífice» con esto se abrió el cónclave: “La elección del nuevo Papa no es una simple sucesión de personas, sin embargo, es siempre el Apóstol Pedro quien vuelve.”

“Siempre es Pedro el que vuelve.” La promesa de Cristo -que encarna Pedro- se cumple en León XIV. Cristo no nos ha dejado huérfanos. Nos ha dado su vicario en la tierra para guiar a la Iglesia en su misión de confesar a Cristo.

Existe incluso una afinidad añadida e inmediata para quienes somos ciudadanos de Estados Unidos, ya que el Papa León nació y creció entre nosotros. Es un estadounidense de Chicago. Incluso sirvió en Cascia Hall High School de Tulsa (dirigido por la orden religiosa agustiniana en la que se formó).

Para ser sincero, inunca pensé que llegaría el día en que tuviéramos un Papa estadounidense! Oro para que la Iglesia de nuestro país, al ver a uno de los nuestros en la Cátedra de San Pedro, esté cada vez más estrechamente unida a la Iglesia de Roma en afecto filial y comunión.

El Papa León XIV no sólo aporta la vivacidad y vitalidad de la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos a su servicio del Ministerio Petrino, sino que también aporta la amplitud y profundidad de su servicio como sacerdote y obispo en Perú y como líder a nivel regional y mundial dentro de la Orden de San Agustín.

Recientemente ha sido encargado como Prefecto para el Dicasterio de Obispos, asistiendo al Papa Francisco en la elección

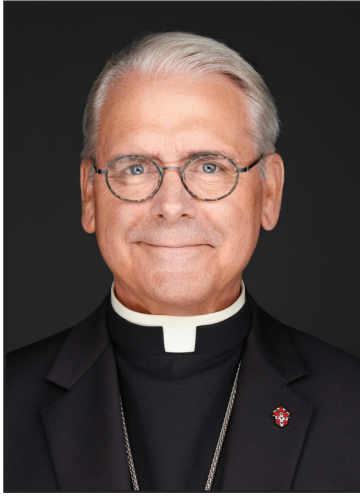
de obispos en todo el mundo, lo que sin duda le ha dado una amplia y profunda comprensión de las realidades que enfrentan las muchas iglesias particulares.

Es un administrador consumado como superior religioso, obispo diocesano y prefecto curial. Es un erudito en derecho eclesiástico, con licenciatura y doctorado en Derecho Canónico. Es un pastor misionero con una preocupación preferencial por los marginados, los oprimidos y los desamparados. Es el pastor dado a la Santa Iglesia Católica para este momento histórico.

Como fraile agustino, es hijo espiritual de san Agustín y atribuye gran parte de su formación a su patrocinio. El carisma de esta orden religiosa es construir una comunión de mente y corazón en el camino hacia Dios.

Espero que el Papa León lleve este gran énfasis en la comunión, la unidad y la caridad a la Iglesia Universal. Ya nos enseñó desde el balcón de la Basílica de San Pedro sobre la necesidad de tender puentes, pero solo después de llamar a Jesucristo el puente por el que Dios y su amor nos alcanzan.

Pedro es la roca sobre la que Jesucristo edifica la comunión de su Iglesia, y Pedro regresa a nosotros en León XIV.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

Primer Papa de EEUU: Aficionado a los White Sox, graduado en Villanova, misionero en Perú, líder del Vaticano

Por Maria Wiering
OSV News

(OSV News) – De pie en la logia de la basílica de San Pedro, el recién elegido Papa León XIV sonrió, saludó y pareció contener la emoción el 8 de mayo mientras se presentaba al mundo como el 266° sucesor de San Pedro -- el primer estadounidense en ocupar ese cargo.

Sus primeras palabras fueron: “¡La paz esté con todos ustedes!”

El Papa León, de 69 años, antes Cardenal Robert F. Prevost, es el primer Papa de Estados Unidos. Asume la cátedra de Pedro con una polifacética experiencia de liderazgo: Creció en el Medio Oeste de EE.UU., se licenció en Matemáticas en la Universidad de Villanova, regentada por los agustinos, ejerció como obispo en

Perú, fue presidente de la Pontificia Comisión para América Latina y dirigió el dicasterio vaticano que ayuda a nombrar, formar y jubilar a los obispos.

Nacido en Chicago y ordenado sacerdote por la Orden de San Agustín en 1982, Leo desempeñó importantes funciones de liderazgo en su comunidad religiosa antes de ser ordenado obispo en 2014, ejerciendo su ministerio en las diócesis de Chiclayo y Callao, Perú. Fue nombrado prefecto del Dicasterio para los Obispos de la Santa Sede -- el poderoso organismo vaticano responsable de elegir a los obispos de todo el mundo -- en abril de 2023 y en septiembre fue elevado al rango de cardenal.

En 2013, cuando se preparaba para dejar su papel como líder mundial de los agustinos, dijo a

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Rome Reports que los agustinos “están llamados a vivir una vida sencilla al servicio de los demás, y de manera especial, a llegar a los que son pobres ... lo que incluye, por supuesto, a los que son monetariamente pobres, pero hay muchos tipos de pobreza en el mundo de hoy”.

El Papa León nació en los suburbios del sur de Chicago el 14 de septiembre de 1955. Su familia acudía a la parroquia de Santa María de la Asunción de Dolton, Illinois, y, al parecer, es descendiente de italianos, franceses y españoles. En 1977 ingresó en el noviciado de la Orden de San Agustín en San Louis. En septiembre de 1978, a la edad de 22 años, emitió los primeros votos, y tres años más tarde, los votos solemnes.

Se licenció en Teología en la Catholic Theological Union de Chicago antes de ir a Roma a estudiar Derecho Canónico en la Pontificia Universidad Santo Tomás de Aquino, también conocida como el Angelicum, obteniendo la licenciatura en 1984. Tres años más tarde, completó su doctorado, escribiendo sobre “El papel del prior local en la Orden de San Agustín”.

Cuando se doctoró, llevaba cinco años ordenado sacerdote en la Orden de San Agustín y un año en la misión de Chulucanas, en Piura, Perú.

En 1987, fue elegido director de vocaciones y director de misiones de la provincia del Medio Oeste de su orden, Nuestra Madre del Buen Consejo (Our Mother of Good Counsel). Un año después, fue a Trujillo, Perú, para dirigir un proyecto conjunto de formación para los aspirantes agustinos de la región. Durante una década, fue Prior de la comunidad, director de formación y profesor.

Durante nueve años fue vicario judicial de la Arquidiócesis de Trujillo y profesor de derecho canónico, patristico y moral en el Seminario Mayor de San Carlos y San Marcelo, que actualmente celebra su 400 aniversario.

En 1999 regresó a Estados Unidos para ejercer de Prior de la Provincia de Nuestra Madre del Buen Consejo. En 2001, a la edad de 46 años, fue promovido a Prior General de su orden, considerada su autoridad suprema que supervisa su administración y gobierno.

León fue reelegido para el cargo en 2007, ocupándolo durante un total de 12 años, hasta 2013. Bajo su liderazgo, las provincias agustinas de Norteamérica se reorganizaron en 2012 como Federación de Agustinos de Norteamérica, lo que fomentó una mayor colaboración al tiempo que permitía cierta autonomía a cada provincia.

Durante un año, de octubre de 2013 a noviembre de 2014, ejerció como “maestro de profesos” y vicario provincial.

En noviembre de 2014, el Papa Francisco le nombró administrador apostólico de la Diócesis de Chiclayo, Perú, una zona del noroeste del país que entonces albergaba a cerca de 1,1 millones de católicos, aproximadamente el 88% de la población en aquel momento. Simultáneamente fue nombrado obispo, pero de la diócesis titular de Suñar, título bajo el cual fue ordenado un mes después, el 12 de diciembre, festividad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Al año siguiente, fue nombrado obispo de Chiclayo. En el 2015, se convirtió en ciudadano peruano y cuenta con doble nacionalidad. También ejerció durante un año, de abril de 2020 a mayo de 2021, como administrador apostólico de la Diócesis de Callao, Perú, cuya ciudad sede se encuentra a casi 800 kilómetros al sur de Chiclayo, a lo largo de la costa peruana.

Como obispo, según ADN CELAM, “demostró una intensa capacidad de escucha, compromiso con los sectores populares, y cercanía con los jóvenes, las familias y los sectores rurales”.

Además, fue el segundo vicepresidente de la Conferencia Episcopal Peruana entre 2018 y 2023, sirviendo también como presidente de la comisión de educación y cultura, miembro del consejo económico y miembro del consejo de Caritas Perú.

En 2019, el Papa Francisco lo nombró miembro de la Congregación para el Clero. Un año después, se convirtió en miembro de la Con-

gregación para los Obispos.

En enero de 2023, Leo fue nombrado para dirigir el Dicasterio de los Obispos del Vaticano, en sustitución del cardenal canadiense Marc Ouellet, y se le concedió el título personal de arzobispo. El Papa Francisco lo elevó a cardenal en septiembre de 2023, nombrándolo cardenal-diácono de Santa Mónica de los Agustinos, una iglesia inmediatamente al sur del Vaticano dedicada a Santa Mónica, la madre de San Agustín. Es el primer -- y hasta ahora único -- cardenal nombrado para esa iglesia.

En declaraciones a The Associated Press tras ser nombrado cardenal en 2023, León dijo: “Creo que no es casualidad que el Papa Francisco me eligiera a mí. He sido misionero toda mi vida, y estuve trabajando en Perú, pero soy estadounidense, y creo que tengo algunas ideas sobre la iglesia en Estados Unidos.”

Y continuó: “Así que, la necesidad de poder asesorar, trabajar con el Papa Francisco y mirar los desafíos que la iglesia en los Estados Unidos está enfrentando, espero poder responder a ellos con un diálogo saludable, como ya hemos comenzado, con todos los obispos en los Estados Unidos, y continuar buscando maneras de ser Iglesia en el día y la época que estamos viviendo”.

En 2023, el Papa Francisco también nombró al entonces cardenal Prevost presidente de la Pontificia Comisión para América Latina, que estudia y asiste a la Iglesia en América Latina.

El nombre del Papa León es un aparente homenaje al Papa León XIII, conocido como el padre de la doctrina social católica, que escribió la innovadora encíclica social de 1891 “Rerum Novarum”, también conocida como “Sobre la condición de las clases trabajadoras”, que respondía al estado de la sociedad industrial de la época. Con el tercer papado más largo del que se tiene constancia (con San Juan Pablo II en el puesto número 2), León XIII dirigió la Iglesia desde 1878 hasta su muerte en 1903.

A pesar de que se le relaciona con un Papa que reinó hace más de 120 años, León XIV parece ser un prelado completamente moderno que sigue de cerca la actualidad de Roma, América Latina y Estados Unidos. Bajo el nombre de “Robert Prevost”, el Papa León ha mantenido una cuenta X con retweets esporádicos, en su mayoría basados en noticias, como peticiones en febrero de rezar por el Papa Francisco y reproches a los comentarios del vicepresidente JD Vance sobre el orden de los amores, u “ordo amoris”, un concepto católico que Vance trató de invocar para justificar la política de inmigración de Trump.

Al Papa León le gusta jugar tenis, habla inglés, español, italiano, francés y portugués, y lee latín y alemán. Según una entrevista realizada el 8 de mayo a su hermano John Prevost, el Papa León es seguidor de los Chicago White Sox y nunca animó a los Chicago Cubs, rivales en el béisbol. “Nunca fue seguidor de los Cubs”, subrayó el hermano del Papa.

A la edad de 69 años, el Papa León es siete años más joven que el Papa Franciscocuando fue elegido en 2013, y nueve años más joven que Benedicto XVI cuando fue elegido en 2005. Es 11 años mayor que San Juan Pablo II, que tenía 58, en su elección de 1978.

El Papa León fue probablemente elegido en la tercera votación del segundo día del cónclave, tras un total de cuatro votaciones. Los 133 cardenales electores entraron en el cónclave en la tarde del 7 de mayo, con el cierre de las puertas de la Capilla Sixtina retransmitido en directo por Vatican Media.

El cónclave fue el mayor y más diverso geográficamente conocido en la historia, con cardenales representantes de 69 países de cinco continentes, con mayores porcentajes de cardenales participantes de África, Asia y América Latina que en otros cónclaves recientes. En contraste, 115 cardenales electores -- la mitad de ellos de Europa -- participaron en el cónclave de 2013 que eligió al Papa Francisco. En el cónclave de 2025, el 43% de los electores eran europeos.

Antes del cónclave, los cardenales electores

se reunieron en 12 congregaciones generales, durante las cuales compartieron sus esperanzas, preocupaciones y prioridades para la Iglesia. Los temas tratados fueron muy variados, desde la evangelización, la atención a los pobres y la lucha contra los abusos sexuales del clero, hasta la economía, la construcción de la paz y la sinodalidad.

Muchos de los 252 cardenales del mundo -- incluidos los mayores de 80 años que ya no eran elegibles para elegir a un Papa -- ya estaban en Roma o llegaron a ella pocos días después de la muerte del Papa Francisco, el 21 de abril. Más de 220 cardenales, incluido el entonces cardenal Prevost, asistieron a su funeral el 26 de abril.

El Papa León ha sido elogiado por sus habilidades interpersonales, y el veterano periodista vaticanista estadounidense John Allen Jr. de Crux lo ha descrito como “una figura moderada y equilibrada, conocida por su sólido juicio y su aguda capacidad para escuchar”.

El Papa León también ha suscitado críticas por su presunto papel en los permisos dados en 2000 a un sacerdote de la archidiócesis de Chicago, que había sido acusado con credibilidad de múltiples casos de abusos a menores, para vivir en un convento agustino a menos de una manzana de un colegio sin informar a éste de ese caso.

Aunque esa situación se produjo antes de la Carta de Dallas de 2002, dentro de la cual los obispos estadounidenses establecieron procedimientos para abordar los abusos sexuales del clero, el entonces obispo Prevost también ha sido acusado de no investigar a fondo las denuncias de abusos sexuales de tres hermanas, presentadas en 2022, contra dos sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Chiclayo, acusación que la diócesis ha negado.

El caso ha atraído la atención mundial porque como prefecto del Dicasterio para los Obispos, el entonces cardenal Prevost supervisó casos de negligencia del clero bajo las normas mundiales que el Papa Francisco estableció en 2019 con “Vos Estis Lux Mundi”.

Como jefe de dicasterio, el entonces cardenal Prevost participó en ambas sesiones de la 16ª Asamblea General Ordinaria del Sínodo de los Obispos sobre Sinodalidad que el Papa Francisco dirigió en 2023 y 2024.

En unas palabras pronunciadas desde la logia de San Pedro antes de ofrecer su primera bendición “urbi et orbi”, el Papa León elogió la bendición final del Papa Francisco al mundo en la mañana de Pascua, el día antes de su muerte, diciendo: “Permitanme continuar con esa misma bendición: Dios nos quiere, Dios los ama a todos, ¡y el mal no prevalecerá! Todos estamos en manos de Dios. Por lo tanto, sin miedo, unidos de la mano con Dios y entre nosotros, sigamos adelante. Somos discípulos de Cristo. Cristo nos precede”.

El Papa León también indicó que continuaría el legado del Papa Francisco en el desarrollo de un estilo sinodal dentro de la Iglesia católica por el bien de su misión evangélica.

“Queremos ser una Iglesia sinodal”, dijo. “Una Iglesia que camina, una Iglesia que busca siempre la paz, que busca siempre la caridad, que busca siempre estar cercana especialmente a los que sufren”.

La Provincia de Santo Tomás de Villanueva, de los agustinos, con sede en Filadelfia, anunció a principios de este año que entregaba su Medalla de San Agustín 2025 al entonces cardenal Prevost, con una celebración prevista para el 28 de agosto, fiesta de San Agustín.

En aquella entrevista de Rome Reports de 2013, el entonces padre Prevost hablaba de Dios y de san Agustín, el filósofo, teólogo y obispo del siglo V que inspiró la formación de los agustinos en 1244.

“Dios no es alguien o algo ausente y lejano”, dijo. “Y Agustín, en su espiritualidad, en sus luchas, en sus reflexiones que vemos, por ejemplo, en las ‘Confesiones’, es capaz de abrir una ventana ... y llevar a otros a llegar a descubrir cómo Dios está obrando en sus vidas”.

Maria Wiering es redactora sénior de OSV News.

Briefs

OKCR volunteers

Oklahoma Catholic Radio is seeking volunteers to help with several support aspects of the non-profit ministry. Anyone considering an opportunity to join in their outreach to “Go make disciples” of Jesus Christ, can contact info@okcr.org; (405) 255-7348. Visit okcr.org.

Discipleship Conference

The 2025 Archdiocesan Discipleship Conference is Aug. 9 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, 100 Mick Cornett Dr. in Oklahoma City. This full-day event will offer keynotes by national speakers, inspiring breakout sessions, liturgies, exhibits and music designed to inspire, equip and encourage people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and to share the Good News. Visit okdisciple.org.

Camp registration open

Registration is open for the 2025 Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp season. campguadalupe.org/summerncamp.

Catholic in Recovery

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Catholic in Recovery meetings are 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Meer-schaert House, second floor, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St. in Oklahoma City. The meetings are for individuals and families seeking recovery from a variety of addictions, compulsions and unhealthy attachments. Visit catholicinrecovery.com or contact Kendra M. at (405) 709-2895; kmann@archokc.org.

Craft fair vendors

Holy Spirit Catholic Church will host its Altar Society craft fair 9

a.m. - 3 p.m. Nov. 8 at the church, 1100 N. Sara Rd. in Mustang. Vendor applications are now being accepted. holyspiritmustang.org/craft-fair-form.

Craft fair - Yukon

St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon is having its annual arts and crafts show from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sept. 13. There will be Indian tacos and drinks to purchase. People interested in booth registration can contact Rachelle Goldsboro at rachelle_goldsboro@sbcglobal.net, (405) 350-7559.

Father-son retreat

The archdiocesan marriage and family life office presents a father and son retreat May 22-24 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp. Cost \$100 per father. Scholarships are available. Fathers and sons must attend together. Sons should be ages 10-20. Register at archokc.org/fathers.

Bingo

The Knights of Columbus family bingo is 6:30 p.m. May 22 at St. James the Greater Catholic Church, 4201 S. McKinley in Oklahoma City. Games \$10. Door prizes provided by the Knights. Reasonably priced food served at 5:45 p.m. All players receive a raffle ticket for a 55-inch LED TV to be given away at October bingo (must be present to win). All May birthdays will be recognized and given a free additional blackout card.

Memorial Day celebration

The St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery Association annual potluck celebration will be held at 10 a.m. May 26 at N.W. 234 St. (Sorghum

Mill Rd) between Council Road and S. County Line Road in rural Edmond. A Tridentine Latin Mass will be celebrated (weather permitting) at the cemetery pavilion. Take a chair and a food dish to share. Contact Therese Klopfenstein at (405) 208-0330.

Monastic Encounter Weekends

St. Gregory’s Abbey vocation director Fr. Simeon Spitz, O.S.B. invites single Catholic men ages 18-45 to a Monastic Encounter Weekend June 6-8, Aug. 1-3 or Oct. 17-19. Participants will share in the liturgical prayer, lectio divina, common work, and communal life of the abbey and live as a monk. While these encounters are primarily intended for those discerning a religious vocation, they are of spiritual benefit to anyone yearning to know God’s still, small voice amidst life’s chaos. Register at vocations@monksok.org, visit monksok.org, or call Fr. Simeon at (405) 878-5456.

Diamond anniversary

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Oklahoma City will be celebrating its 75th anniversary on June 10. All former parishioners, seminarians and anyone connected to the parish is invited to help make the celebration special. Time, talent and ideas are welcome. For more information, contact Florence Daugomah at (405) 626-8638.

MSM 50-year reunion

The Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Class of 1975 will celebrate its 50-year reunion at 6:30 p.m. June 14 in the school commons. Cost: \$50 per person or \$90 per couple. E-mail msmsclassof1975@gmail.com.

Camp Subiaco

The 2025 summer camp dates for Camp Subiaco are June 15-21 and June 22-28. A limited number of campers will be accepted to this adventure-based camp for boys ages 9-13. Visit campsubiaco.org.

BMCHS 30-year reunion

The Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Class of 1995 will celebrate its 30-year reunion at 7 p.m. June 20 at Cock-O-The-Walk (private event) for drinks and hors d’oeuvres; and at 7 p.m. June 21 at the Lively Hotel on Oak for dinner, drinks and dancing. Cost \$150 per person for the weekend. If unable to attend, donations to the class are welcome. Send payments to Lindsey Selph Evans via Venmo: LindseyEvans-0130; Cash App: \$LindseyEvans0130 or mail to 3013 Red Rock Circle, Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

A Night of Prayer

A Night of Prayer for the country will be held 7-8 p.m. June 24 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 900 S. Littler Ave. in Edmond. Everyone is welcome.

Reds, Whites & Brews

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will host Reds, Whites & Brews 6-10 p.m. July 24 at the OKC Farmers Public Market, 311 S. Klein Ave. in Oklahoma City. Proceeds support Sanctuary Women’s Development Centers in Oklahoma City and Norman, helping women and children experiencing homelessness. Visit catholiccharitiesok.org.

Calendar

This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect all of the calendar items. To see a full calendar, go to sooneratholic.org.

	May	25	Sixth Sunday of Easter.	27	Feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury.	31	National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, May 31-June 3. Visit archokc.org/nep.
18	Fifth Sunday of Easter.	26	Feast of St. Philip Neri.			31	Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Alameda St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, potato.lang@gmail.com.
20	Feast of St. Bernardine of Siena.	26	Memorial Day.	27	Catholic in Recovery meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City.		
20	Serra Club of Oklahoma City meeting, 11a.m., Catholic Charities, 1232 N. Classen Blvd, Oklahoma City. Visit serraokc.org.	26	St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery Association Memorial Day celebration, 10 a.m., N.W. 234 St. (Sorghum Mill Road) between Council Road and S. County Line Road in rural Edmond. Contact Therese Klopfenstein, (405) 208-0330.	29	Feast of St. Paul VI, Pope.		
20	Suicide grief support group, 6-7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18, Oklahoma City.			31	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary		

“Make Straight the Way”

hosted by Dcn. Larry Sousa

May 20 and 21: Erin Barresi and Dcn. Randy Hearn, parishioners, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond. “Unbound” Healing Ministry, part one.

May 27 and 28: Erin Barresi and Dcn. Randy Hearn, parishioners, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond. “Unbound” Healing Ministry, part two.

June 3 and 4: Thane Mitchum, parishioner, St. Monica Catholic Church, Edmond.

June 10 and 11: Paul Otieno,

parishioner, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Norman and Seminarian, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

June 17 and 18: Liz Carlampio and Keven Konrade, parishioners, Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Purcell (Keven is also a board member of Oklahoma Catholic Radio).

June 24 and 25: Toni Harrelson, parishioner, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond, and facilitator of Lay Missionaries of Charity, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

“Make Straight the Way” broadcasts on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Listen online at okcr.org.



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Sister Joann Stuever, A.S.C., of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, died April 9, 2025, at the Caritas center in Wichita. She was 92 and a professed Adorer of the Blood of Christ for 29 years.

Sister Joann’s life began March 26, 1933, in Woodward, as the first-born child of Joseph L. and Gladys (New) Schneider. Joann’s extended family was made up of hardworking, German-descended, devoutly Catholic farmers who all managed to make it through the Great Depression.

She attended Southern Methodist University, where she earned a degree in chemistry, one of a few female science majors in her world. She dreamed of becoming a geochemist but put that on hold to marry her long-distance high school/college sweetheart, Joe Stuever, in 1954, a few weeks after they both received their degrees.

His military career sent them to Oklahoma, Texas and California. in short order; Joann and Joe settled down with their three little girls — Pat, Ann and Mary — in

Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he worked as an engineer, and she became active in Girl Scouts and other activities.

The Stuever family moved to Oklahoma City in 1967 for new opportunities – and welcomed a latecomer son/baby brother named Hank.

Joann joined the faculty at Hefner Junior High (now Hefner Middle School) in 1970, where she taught earth science for 23 years.

At Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, she took on many roles: lector, eucharistic minister, banner committee chairperson, head sacristan and youth group parent-volunteer. She loved sharing her faith and enjoyed late-night prayer and deep discussions with close friends and fellow spiritual seekers.

As her marriage ended in 1982, prayed intensely in the early mornings, asking for God’s insight and attuning herself to God’s will.

In a talk she gave later in her life, she recalled the moment in 1986 when she heard “a tiny voice”

— nevertheless clear — while climbing Colorado’s Humboldt Peak. The message: “Come down with me. I have other mountains for you to climb.”

On the ride home she said she knew she was changed.

In 1990, Joann joined an associate community formed by Sister Elizabeth Determan, A.S.C., and other Adorers at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. A year later, Sister Joann deepened her commitment and sold her house and belongings, on her way to joining the Adorers full-time.

“The call was so strong,” she told the Wichita Eagle in 1993, “I thought, I’m not going to get any peace until I decide.”

Joann retired from teaching and entered the novitiate that year.

In addition to her Sister Adorers, Sister Joann is survived by her four children: daughters Pat Graff (Mark Rumsey) of Albuquerque; Ann South of Kissimmee, Florida; Mary Stuever of Cimarron, New Mexico; and son Hank Stuever (Michael



Sr. Joann
Stuever, A.S.C.

Wichita) of Washington, DC; as well as five grandchildren (Earl Graff Jr., Jeremy Graff, Matthew Wagnon; Roland Shaw; and Katie Shelburne) and their spouses, and 12 great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her siblings, Linda (Marvin) Resnick of Oklahoma City; Louis Schneider (John Johnson) of Dallas; and Mary G. Brown of Wilmington, North Carolina.

She was preceded in death by her parents, as well as a grand-daughter.

Sister Joann’s wake service was April 28 at the ASC Wichita Center. Mass of Christian Burial was April 29. Interment followed at the Center’s community cemetery.

Donations in Sister Joann’s memory may be sent to the Adorers at 4233 Sulphur Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109, or made online at adorers.org/donate.

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