

Pope Leo XIV

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost has been elected as the 267th Pope to lead the Catholic Church. He is a 69-year-old American with dual Peruvian citizenship.

He was born in Chicago on 14 September 1955, the son of Louis Marius Prevost and Mildred Martínez. His father, was a school administrator, of French and Italian descent, and his mother, a librarian, was of Spanish descent and has two brothers. As a child, Prevost served as an altar boy at St. Mary of the Assumption Church on the far South Side of Chicago. He completed his secondary studies at the minor seminary of the Order of St. Augustine in 1973 and speaks English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, and can read Latin and German.

Augustinian (1977–2025). Deciding to become a priest, Prevost joined the Order of St. Augustine in September 1977. He took his first vows to the order in September 1978 and his solemn vows in August 1981 and was ordained a priest by Archbishop Jean Jadot for the Augustinians in Rome on June 19, 1982. He joined the Augustinian mission in Peru in 1985 and served as chancellor of the Territorial Prelature of Chulucanas from 1985 to 1986. He returned to Peru in 1988, spending the next ten years heading the Augustinian seminary in Trujillo. Prevost served as judge of the regional ecclesiastical court and a member of the College of Consultors of Trujillo. He also led a congregation on the outskirts of the city and in 1998, he was elected provincial of the Augustinian Province of Chicago and returned to the United States to assume that position on March 8, 1999. In 2001, he was elected to a six-year term as Prior General of the Augustinians. He was elected to a second six-year term in 2007. From 2013 to 2014, Prevost served as director of formation in the Convent of St. Augustine in Chicago, as well as first councillor and provincial vicar of the province of Our Mother of Good Counsel, which covers the midwestern United States.

Bishop of Chiclayo. On 3 November 2014, Pope Francis appointed Prevost as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Chiclayo and titular bishop of Sufr. He received his episcopal consecration on 12 December 2014 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Chiclayo. On 26 September 2015, he was named bishop of Chiclayo. On 13 July 2019, he was appointed a member of the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome, although he initially declared that only the humble ones are eligible. On 15 April 2020, he was named apostolic administrator of Callao in Peru. On November 21, 2020, Francis named him a member of the Congregation for Bishops. Within the Episcopal Conference of Peru, Prevost served on the permanent council for the 2018 to 2020 term. He was elected in 2019 as president of its Commission for Education and Culture. He was also a member of the leadership of Caritas Peru. Prevost had a private audience with Francis on March 1, 2021, fuelling speculation of a new assignment either in Chicago or Rome.

Dicastery for Bishops. On 30 January 2023, Francis appointed Prevost prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops with the title archbishop-bishop emeritus of Chiclayo. At the September 30 consistory, Francis appointed him cardinal-deacon of Chapel of Santa Monica deli Agostiniani in Rome. In 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, a key position within the Roman Curia. The office is responsible for evaluating and recommending candidates for the episcopate around the world. This role increased Prevost's visibility and influence within the Catholic Church, potentially raising his profile ahead of any future papal conclave.

On 6 February 2025, Francis promoted Prevost to cardinal-bishop, assigning him to the Suburbicarian Diocese of Albano in the Province of Rome.