

10 Things Pope Leo XIV Wants You to Know

SR. GEMMA MORATÓ SENDRA, OP



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Pope Leo XIV, visit to the sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano, May 10, 2025.



INTRODUCTION

A New Chapter for the Church

The election of Pope Leo XIV marks a significant turning point in the life of the Church. At a time when the world is grappling with division, disillusionment, and rapid change, the Holy Spirit has raised up a shepherd whose life story is quietly revolutionary—marked not by power or prestige but by simplicity, community, and tireless service. Formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, this humble Augustinian friar from Chicago has stepped into the shoes of the fisherman with a clear message: the Church must return to the heart of the gospel, walk with its people, and witness to the living Christ with courage and compassion.

In a striking contrast to the ceremo-

nial grandeur often associated with a new papacy, Leo XIV's first public appearance was disarming in its simplicity. There were no grand declarations, no theatrical gestures. Instead, there was a quiet reverence, a humble gaze, and a message that was deeply intentional. "Peace be with you," he said—echoing the first words of the risen Christ. And with those words, a tone was set for his entire pontificate: one of peace, humility, fraternity, and mission.

Pope Leo XIV does not see the Church as a fortress to be defended but as a bridge to be built. His Augustinian roots have instilled in him a spirituality that is both contemplative and missionary—a restless search for God that is only fulfilled in community and service. He brings to the papacy a wealth of lived experience: as a missionary in the poor regions of Peru, as a seminary formator, as the superior general of his Order, and as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. These roles have not distanced him from the people but have deepened his commitment to walk with them—to listen, to heal, to accompany.

The ten themes in this booklet are drawn

directly from profound reflections on the first days of Pope Leo XIV's pontificate. They are not abstract theological statements, nor are they policy points. They are the fruit of a life rooted in prayer, community, and love for the gospel. They are the compass points of a Church that dares to dream again—of peace, unity, dialogue, and shared discipleship.

This is a pope who believes that holiness is not reserved for the few but is the vocation of all. That the Church must be missionary not only in word but also in action. That synodality is not an option but is a path to rediscovering the face of Christ in one another. That Mary walks with us. And that evil will not have the final word.

As you read these ten themes, allow them to challenge, comfort, and inspire. Because in Leo XIV, the Church has not just found a pope—it has found a fellow pilgrim. One who reminds us, gently but firmly, that the journey of faith is not one we walk alone, but together. In the one Christ, we are one.

Seek God With a Restless Heart

At the core of Pope Leo XIV's spirituality is a profound restlessness—a yearning for God that echoes the famous words of Saint Augustine: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” This phrase is not simply theological poetry for Pope Leo; it is the rhythm of his life and ministry. His journey, from his early days in the minor seminary to the papacy, has been one of continual searching, listening, and responding to God's call, not in isolation but in communion.

Leo XIV is shaped by the Augustinian vision of a communal life in which the search for God is shared, not solitary. From the very beginning, he understood that truth