



**DIOCESE OF RALEIGH**

**Office of the Bishop**

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*I announce to you a great joy: We have a Pope! The most eminent and most reverend,  
Lord Robert Francis, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church Prevost,  
who has taken to himself the name Leo the Fourteenth.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this day full of joy, full of surprises and full of the work of the Holy Spirit, I want to take a moment to celebrate with you and give thanks for the naming of our new Holy Father.

Once again, we are surprised by the Holy Spirit; we experienced the unexpected. We saw the humility and humanity as Pope Leo XIV was introduced for the first time. And we see the continued joy and excitement of the whole world as they experience this special moment with us.

I hope that you embrace this special moment in the life of our Church and use it to spread the joy of the Good News. Join me in praying for Pope Leo XIV and that each of us will continue to embrace the surprises that the Holy Spirit brings each and every day.

Please know that I will continue to offer my prayers for each of you during this blessed season and always.

In Christ,

† Luis Rafael Zarama  
Bishop of Raleigh