

An American Pope

Leo XIV, of Chicago, Took Global Path to Top of Church



Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, greeting the crowd outside St. Peter's Basilica on Thursday after his election.



In the St. Pius V Catholic Church in Chicago, where the new pope was born, and in Vatican City after his election was announced.



GIANNI CIPRIANO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Surprise and Joy in Hometown and Beyond

This article is by Jack Healy, Julie Bosman, Kate Selig and Michael Levenson.

On the steps of Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, a group of excited sixth graders dressed in Catholic school uniforms began jumping up and down. “Long live the pope!” they chanted. “Long live the pope!”

In Chiclayo, Peru, the Rev. Pedro Vásquez, 82, was also overjoyed. “My heart is going to fail me!” he exclaimed, shocked that the city’s former bishop was the new pope. “I’m going to faint! Oh my god! Oh my god!”

And there was bewilderment, at least momentarily, that the cardinals had chosen a leader from the last place where many assumed they would look: the United States.

Fabio Vagnarelli, a 42-year-old Roman actor who had expected an Asian pope to be elected, said that when the new pope first appeared on the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica, “in the crowd, you could feel a moment of, Who?”

The elevation of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as the first pope from the United States touched off an avalanche of surprise and emotion among Roman Catholics around the world.

Many said they were astonished that the 2,000-year-old religious institution had chosen an American priest as its new leader. Cardinal Prevost, 69, who was born in Chicago, took the name Pope Leo XIV.

“We got what we never expected,” said the Rev. Lawrence Tajah, a chaplain for the Nigerian community in Hyattsville, Md. “The public speculations never really focused on America, but rather Asia, Africa, and probably Rome or Italy. But this is a very big surprise for us, and a very good one, too, perhaps because it came from a place we never anticipated.”

The announcement even prompted a rare moment of bipartisanship.

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A Vatican Official Is Viewed as a Middle Way

This article is by Motoko Rich, Elizabeth Dias and Jason Horowitz.

Robert Francis Prevost, who was elected the 267th pope of the Roman Catholic Church on Thursday and took the name Pope Leo XIV, is the first pope from the United States.

The decision from the 133 voting cardinals, which arrived in a plume of white smoke at the end of their second day of voting inside the secrecy of the Sistine Chapel, defied longstanding belief that church leaders would never select a pope from a global superpower that already has considerable influence in world affairs.

Taking the name Pope Leo XIV, he shares Francis’ commitment to helping the poor and migrants. He was once the leader of his religious order, the Augustinians, whose members are called to live simply and devote themselves to ministering to those in need.

In his first address as pope to the crowd in St. Peter’s Square, he said in Italian, “We must seek together how to be a missionary church, a church that builds bridges, dialogue, always open to receive like this square with open arms.”

As an American, he is uniquely positioned to stand in contrast to the energized conservative Catholicism in his home country, and has pushed back forcefully against the militant vision of Christian power that the Trump administration has elevated.

Months before Cardinal Prevost became pope, a social media account under his name expressed criticism of Vice President JD Vance, who had asserted on Fox News that Christian theology could justify turning away migrants and strangers in need because it actually ranks caring for family first. The account posted on X that “J.D. Vance is wrong: Jesus doesn’t ask us to rank our love for others.”

Despite his American roots, the Chicago-born polyglot, 69, is

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U.S. and U.K. Set Trade Plan, But Some Levies Will Be Kept

By ANA SWANSON and JONATHAN SWAN

WASHINGTON — President Trump announced on Thursday that the United States intended to sign a trade deal with Britain that would bring the two nations closer and roll back some of the punishing tariffs he issued on that country’s products.

Both sides consider a trade pact deeply beneficial, and a deal has been under discussion since Mr. Trump’s first term. But the announcement on Thursday was

still short on details, reflecting the haste of the Trump administration’s efforts to negotiate with more than a dozen nations and rework the global trading system in a matter of months.

The agreement, which Mr. Trump said would be the first of many, would include Britain’s dropping its tariffs on U.S. beef, ethanol, sports equipment and other products, and buying \$10 billion of Boeing airplanes. The United States in return said it would pare back tariffs that Mr. Trump has put on cars and steel, though it will leave a 10 percent levy in place for all British exports.

Neither government has said when the agreement would go into effect. Officials from both governments will need to meet in the coming months to hammer out specific language, leaving open the potential for disagreements. The British government said it was still pushing to bring down

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Keir Starmer of Britain could gain political points at home.

More on the White House

REMOVING MIGRANTS Agents are rounding up defendants and deporting them before trial. Prosecutors say the disruptions make communities less safe. PAGE A15

FIGHT OVER THE PAST An order for institutions to sanitize Black history meets resistance. PAGE A12

LOW PROFILE Melania Trump has rarely been seen in the capital since her husband’s inauguration. It is a sensitive subject in the White House. PAGE A14

BUDGET BIND Vulnerable Republicans will face tough votes on cuts to popular programs. PAGE A14

Trump Pulls U.S. Attorney Pick as Support Flags

This article is by Glenn Thrush, Alan Feuer, Maggie Haberman and Devlin Barrett.

WASHINGTON — Ed Martin, the interim U.S. attorney for Washington, was breezing toward the office elevator in his signature trench coat in February when he passed a group of about 10 young prosecutors preparing to leave, framed diplomas and keepsakes in hand.

“Whoa, what’s going on here?” Mr. Martin asked with a chuckle, seemingly oblivious to who they

G.O.P. Senator Balks at Nominee’s Defense of Jan. 6 Rioters

were and where they were going, according to people with knowledge of the exchange.

The lawyers were too stunned to speak. They had just been fired — part of a purge, overseen by Mr. Martin, of about two dozen prosecutors detailed during the Biden

administration to prosecute the rioters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

President Trump nominated Mr. Martin, a conservative Republican political operative from Missouri, to permanently run the U.S. attorney’s office in part because he has emerged as one of the most passionate defenders of Jan. 6 rioters, a small but vocal far-right group that wields outsized influence. Mr. Martin has, in turn, used his authority to help carry out Mr. Trump’s retribution campaign,

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The Great Salt Lake Is Drying Up

Losing the lake would be an environmental disaster with health and economic effects extending far beyond Utah. The state is trying to reverse the decline, but critics say it is doing too little. PAGE A18.

KIM RAFF FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Newark Panic: Chain of Errors At Travel Hub

By KATE KELLY

On a recent afternoon in Philadelphia, an air traffic controller began shouting that he had lost his radar feed for planes flying in and out of Newark Liberty International Airport.

Some of his colleagues still had radar but their radios went dead, prompting frantic calls to their counterparts in New York urging them to keep their planes away from Newark’s airspace.

Then, for 30 harrowing seconds until the radios came back, there was nothing more to do but hope — as they had no means of telling pilots how to avoid crashing their planes into one another.

Shortly after that, one controller discovered a trainee, who had been directing Newark traffic under supervision just moments earlier, shaking in the hallway.

That was the chaotic scene on Monday, April 28, according to several people who were present when controllers working the airspace for Newark lost the means to do their jobs.

The failure of the system the controllers rely on left several of those on duty that day with extreme anxiety, requiring a mental health respite that has caused low staffing levels for days since. It has also prompted more than 1,000 flights at one of the nation’s busiest airports to be canceled or delayed, leaving some passengers

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