



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Cordell Cleare

Statement on the Historic Election of Pope Leo XIV, the First American Pope

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May 8, 2025



It is with deep reverence and great hope that we mark a historic moment for the Catholic Church and the world. Following the passing of the beloved Pope Francis, and after just two days of deliberation, the Conclave of 133 Cardinals in Rome has selected Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost to lead the world's 1.3 billion Catholics as the new Pontiff. He will be known as Pope Leo the Fourteenth—the first American ever elevated to the papacy.

I join with the Catholic community worldwide and within my district, in celebrating this profound milestone. As we look ahead, we pray for a steady continuity, and renewed strength under Pope Leo XIV's leadership. His election is a powerful symbol of unity and progress at a time when the world must come together to confront the challenges of our time with compassion, courage, and faith. May his papacy be one of healing, inspiration, and enduring peace.