

# POPE LEO XIV

## *Habemus Papam!*



In 1975, this man made a shocking decision—he rejected Harvard Law to serve Peru’s poorest villages. Now, he’s the 267th Pope, and the first ever born in the United States of America.

This is the untold story of the newly elected Pope, Robert Prevost.

In 1975 Robert Prevost was at the top of his game. A Chicago math teacher, devout Catholic, and accepted into Harvard Law, he had everything a young man could dream of. But then—he made a decision that no one saw coming.

He said no to Harvard. No to a six-figure future. No to fame. No to comfort. And yes—to something few dare to choose—a life of complete surrender.

He joined a missionary group and moved to Peru. Not to the cities. Not to the tourist spots. But to the *most* remote villages—where children die from treatable diseases and families walk miles just for clean water. There were no roads. No running water. No WiFi. Just mountains. Silence. And poverty. But he embraced it like home.

Robert didn’t just live *among* the people. He became *one* of them. He learned Quechua—the sacred language of the Incas; walked 8 hours to help the poor; carried food on foot for days; slept on dirt floors with the villagers; prayed under the stars.

When he wasn’t building shelters, he taught math to barefoot kids under broken rooftops. When he wasn’t teaching, he carried the sick on donkeys to get help. When he wasn’t healing, he listened—truly listened—to stories no one else cared to hear.

While his friends from back home became lawyers and doctors. He became something else entirely. A shepherd. A brother. A quiet warrior of faith. And slowly—his legend grew.

His acts weren’t broadcasted, but they echoed through the Andes. Bishops noticed. Priests noticed. And eventually, the Vatican noticed.

They called him back to lead his entire Augustinian order. From serving a village to overseeing 2,800 brothers in over 40 countries.

Still, he kept his same sandals. Still, he walked with the poor. Still, he rejected luxury.

Then came the call that changed everything: Rome wanted him closer.

In 2020 He was appointed Archbishop and assigned to govern other bishops globally. It was rare, but Robert had never chased tradition.

He wasn’t just fluent in Latin or Canon Law, he was fluent in *compassion*; in humility, in listening; in *presence*.

The Vatican didn’t just see a priest. They saw a *leader with soul*.

On September 30, 2023. Pope Francis made it official: Robert Prevost was named a Cardinal. Just one step below the Pope.

And then, in 2025, history was made.

For the first time ever, an American, a former math teacher, a missionary to the forgotten who speaks ancient Incan, was elevated as the 267th Pope of the Catholic Church, and he didn’t forget the people who shaped him.

To this day, Pope Robert still returns to address the same villages; still prays in Quechua; still sits on dirt floors; still holds the hands of the elderly in silence. Because leadership, he believes, is about *presence* not position.

The world is obsessed with power. But Robert Prevost proves:

- Titles mean nothing without service
- Knowledge is useless without love
- And faith—without sacrifice—is noise

He turned down the world. And changed it instead.

*By Marlon Eugenio Apat, May 2025*

