



The Catholic Communicator

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Habemus Papam... Leo XIV



According to the Vatican News, the new Pontiff was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, to Louis Marius Prevost and Mildred Martínez. In 1977, he earned a Degree in Mathematics from Villanova University. On September 1 of the same year, he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, in the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicago and made his first profession on September 2, 1978. On August 29, 1981, he made his solemn vows. He received his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At the age of 27, he was sent by his superiors to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

In Rome, he was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982, at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica by Archbishop Jean Jadot. He obtained his licentiate in 1984 and the following year, while preparing his doctoral thesis, was sent to the Augustinian mission in Chulucanas, Piura, Peru (1985–1986). In 1987, he defended his doctoral thesis on "The Role of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine." His episcopal motto is "In Illo uno unum"— (In the One, we are one) Saint Augustine's words in a sermon on Psalm 127 to explain that "although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one." Prior to his election as Pope Leo XIV, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops.