

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Robert Francis Prevost on his ascension to leadership of the Catholic Church as Pope Leo XIV

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Robert Francis Prevost on his ascension to leadership of the Catholic Church  
3 as Pope Leo XIV.

4 WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost, became the two hundred  
5 sixty-seventh leader of the Roman Catholic Church on Thursday, May 8, 2025, following  
6 his election during the second day of the 2025 papal conclave; he is the second pope from  
7 the Americas, behind Pope Francis, and the first-ever pope from the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV has connections to the 7th Ward in New Orleans through  
9 his maternal grandmother, and his great-grandmother was baptized in St. Louis Cathedral  
10 in the French Quarter; and

11 WHEREAS, the Tremé neighborhood of the 7th Ward is also the birthplace of the  
12 Venerable Henriette DeLille, a woman of Creole descent who founded the Sisters of the  
13 Holy Family and dedicated herself to educating enslaved peoples, serving the impoverished,  
14 and providing comfort to the community through faith and service; and

15 WHEREAS, prior to his election as pope, Cardinal Prevost was an American  
16 missionary from Chicago, Illinois, who spent his career ministering in Peru; he was  
17 appointed by Pope Francis as president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America in  
18 2023, and the same year, he was made a cardinal; he was appointed as a cardinal-bishop  
19 assigned as the titular bishop of the Suburbicarian Diocese of Albano in February 2025; and

20 WHEREAS, following his election, Pope Leo XIV made his first appearance on the  
21 balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and offered the following message: "Peace be with you all.

1 Dear brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the good shepherd who  
2 gave his life for the flock of God. I too would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts  
3 to reach your families to all people everywhere to all the earth: peace be with you".

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Robert Francis Prevost on his ascension to  
6 leadership of the Catholic Church as Pope Leo XIV; does hereby invite him to visit the state  
7 of Louisiana during a future papal tour of the United States; and does hereby express  
8 sincerest wishes that he prosper in his endeavors as the Bishop of Rome.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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