

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, following his election, Pope Leo XIV made his first appearance on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and offered the following message: "Peace be with you all. Dear brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the good shepherd who gave his life for the flock of God. I too would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts to reach your families to all people everywhere to all the earth: peace be with you".

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES