



Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock

May 8, 2025

Most Rev. Robert M.
Coerver
Bishop of Lubbock

Lucas Flores
Diocese of Lubbock
Communications
Director

CONTACT:

Lucas Flores, Director of Communications, Diocese of Lubbock
LFlores@catholiclubbock.org, (806) 792-3943

Habemus Papam

The following is Most Rev. Robert M. Coerver's opening statement for the media availability, after the announcement of the new pope, Pope Leo XIV, on May 8, 2025:

With joy, Catholics throughout the world welcome the new universal ministry of our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV. It is hoped that his presence on the world front will be a source of peace, comfort, mercy, and hope for all peoples.

May his words, actions, and very presence remind us of the ministry of Christ himself in our midst. Let us join together in prayer that his new ministry will be welcomed by people of all faiths, nationalities, and ethnicities, and lifestyles.

I have never met our new Holy Father but I am confident that the Cardinal electors have well discerned the movement of the Holy Spirit in their midst and in his life. I have heard wonderful things about the man who has been elected.

I am, however, rather shocked that a US citizen has been elected Pope. I believe this is very important to the Church in the United States. He knows well the reality of our country. But he also knows the world scene well having been head of the Augustinian order.

I pledge to be a faithful coworker with him in the Lord's vineyard, with filial respect for his authority and ministry. I might have the privilege of meeting him next month in Rome, as I participate in the Jubilee Day for Bishops on June 25 while leading a pilgrim group to Rome and Assisi.

Let us pray for Pope Leo and the new ministry he has now assumed.

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