



May 8, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Habemus Papam!!!

Please join the Diocese of Joliet as we rejoice with the news of our new Holy Father, Leo XIV.

As we anticipated the name as the smoke turned white, we were filled with great joy and hope. We welcome Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, an American and a Chicago native, as our newly elected Pontiff.

We will learn more about him in the days to come. Meanwhile, join me in praying for Pope Leo XIV, the entire Church, and the World as we say thank you to God and come Holy Spirit.

I will offer a Memorial Mass for our new Holy Father tomorrow May 9, 2025, at 8:00am at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet and all are welcome. I also encourage you to join your local parishes and pray for our new pope at Mass, thanking God for him and asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide him as he begins his papacy. The Memorial Mass will be live-streamed at: <https://youtube.com/live/Nac1IaxyU3k?feature=share>

With best wishes, I remain –

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "† Ronald A. Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet