

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. R. No. 139

Representatives Mathews, A., Odioso

Cosponsors: Representatives Thomas, D., Peterson, Sweeney, Schmidt,

Brennan, Gross, Williams, Barhorst, Abrams, Rader, Rogers, Demetriou,

Richardson, Daniels

A RESOLUTION

To honor Pope Leo XIV, the first pope from the United 1
States of America, and to highlight his life and 2
accomplishments. 3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was elected as the 4
267th Pope, in a continuous line back to Peter, on May 8, 2025, 5
becoming the first American Pope, and chose Leo XIV as his papal 6
name; and 7

WHEREAS, The first pontiff from the Augustinian order and 8
the first from the United States and North America, a son of the 9
Midwest, Pope Leo XIV was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 10
September 14, 1955, to Mildred Martínez and Louis Marius 11
Prevost; he grew up with two brothers, Louis Martín and John 12
Joseph; educated at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian 13
Fathers, he went on to complete his bachelor's degree in 14
mathematics at Villanova University, where he also studied 15
philosophy; in 1977, he entered the novitiate of the Order of 16
St. Augustine in the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel of 17

Chicago; he made his solemn vows four years later and received 18
his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in 19
Chicago; his superiors then sent him to Rome, where he was 20
ordained a priest at the Augustinian College of St. Monica and 21
earned his doctorate in cannon law from the Pontifical 22
University of St. Thomas Aquinas; and 23

WHEREAS, A man born in Illinois and educated in 24
Pennsylvania rises to the title of the Vicar of Christ, Pope Leo 25
XIV has extensive international experience; sent to an 26
Augustinian mission in Peru in 1985, he served that nation's 27
Catholic population in many roles, including as a missionary, 28
parish priest, and professor; he was twice elected Prior General 29
of the Ordinary General Chapter of the Order of St. Augustine, 30
and in 2015, he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo; eight years 31
later, Pope Francis promoted him to archbishop and called him to 32
Rome as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of 33
the Pontifical Commission for Latin America; he was also named a 34
member of the Dicasteries for Evangelization; in 2024, he was 35
created a cardinal in the Consistory, and Pope Francis elevated 36
him to the Order of Bishops the following year, granting him the 37
title of the Suburbicarian Church of Albano; following Pope 38
Francis' hospitalization in February 2025, Cardinal Prevost 39
presided over the March 3 Rosary for the Pope in St. Peter's 40
Square; and 41

WHEREAS, With the selection of the name of Pope Leo XIV, 42
and the ties to the encyclical Rerum Novarum, we are encouraged 43
to work for the policies that recognize the dignity of work and 44
the primacy of the family; and 45

WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV has proven himself to be a spiritual 46
leader of tremendous ability, and his faith community around the 47
world looks forward to an era defined by his wisdom, compassion, 48
and devotion; now therefore be it 49

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 50
Representatives of the 136th General Assembly of the State of 51
Ohio, in adopting this resolution, honor Pope Leo XIV on the 52
occasion of his election to the papacy and extend to him sincere 53
best wishes for the future; and be it further 54

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 55
transmit a duly authenticated copy of this resolution to Pope 56
Leo XIV as an expression of high regard by the Ohio House of 57
Representatives. 58