



SJ0044

LRB104 15157 ECR 28301 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper for the State of
3 Illinois to honor the historic election of Pope Leo XIV; and

4 WHEREAS, The Roman Catholic Church, with over 1.4 billion
5 members worldwide, has selected a new spiritual leader, Pope
6 Leo XIV, following the passing of Pope Francis; and

7 WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost at
8 Mercy Hospital in Chicago on September 14, 1955, is the first
9 American-born pontiff in the history of the Catholic Church;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV was raised in the south suburban
12 village of Dolton, and he grew up in the parish of St. Mary of
13 the Assumption in nearby Riverdale, where he served as an
14 altar boy, sang in the choir, and was deeply involved in parish
15 life; and

16 WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV's early education included attending
17 St. Augustine Seminary High School, a minor seminary near
18 Saugatuck, Michigan, followed by receiving a Bachelor of
19 Science in Mathematics from Villanova University and a Master
20 of Divinity from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV's commitment to faith and service
2 led him to join the Order of Saint Augustine in 1977, and he
3 was ordained as a priest in 1982; his early ministry included
4 teaching physics and math at St. Rita of Cascia High School in
5 Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV's extensive service includes over
7 two decades as a missionary and bishop in Peru, where he was
8 known for his pastoral compassion and theological insight,
9 eventually serving as Bishop of Chiclayo from 2015 to 2023;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV was appointed by Pope Francis to
12 lead the Vatican's Dicastery for Bishops in 2023, and he was
13 elevated to the rank of cardinal, reflecting his significant
14 contributions to the Catholic Church; and

15 WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV's election as the 267th pope on May
16 8, 2025 marks a historic moment for the Catholic Church and
17 highlights the momentous election of an Illinois-born leader
18 to the highest office in the Roman Catholic Church; therefore,
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF

1 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the
2 portion of Interstate Route 80 within the State of Illinois
3 from Illinois State Route 394 to the interchange at Interstate
4 Route 55 as the "Pope Leo XIV Highway"; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
6 and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority are requested to
7 erect at suitable locations, consistent with State and federal
8 regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving notice of the
9 name; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 presented to Pope Leo XIV, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of
12 Chicago, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Joliet, and the
13 Secretary of Transportation.