



The Kids' Catholic Virginian

"Let the little children come to me" – Matthew 19:14

Meet our new pope!



The first American pope!

Pope Leo XIV is the first American pope in history! He was born in Chicago, Illinois, named Robert Francis Prevost, and grew up in a suburb right outside the city.

His dad was a World War II Navy veteran and an educator, and his mom was a librarian who also did a lot in their parish. He has two older brothers, Louis and John.

Since he was a boy, Pope Leo has been big into baseball and especially a big fan of the Chicago White Sox!

(OSV News photo/Yara Nardi, Reuters)

Pope Leo is pretty smart!

Pope Leo went to Villanova University and has a degree in math. He didn't stop there – he also earned a Master of Divinity degree (that teaches you how to serve in ministry or a religious community). Then, he earned another degree in canon law (those are the laws of our Church). He taught canon law in seminaries.

Pope Leo is also a **polyglot**, which means that he knows several languages. He speaks English, Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese. He can also read German and Latin (we have heard him speak and sing in Latin several times since he was announced as the pope).

Pope Leo likes food!



One of Pope Leo's big brothers says our new pope is not a picky eater! He is from Chicago, so of course he likes deep dish pizza.

He also likes Chicago-style hot dogs – that means mustard but no ketchup. It's served on a poppy seed bun with a bunch of toppings: green pickle relish, tomato slices, chopped onions, a pickle spear, pickled peppers, and a dash of celery salt!

Pope Leo didn't mind eating fish every Friday as a kid. He tries exotic foods while traveling the world because he doesn't want to hurt anyone's feelings.

One of his friends and former classmates says Pope Leo also likes Italian food and he likes to cook for others.

Pope Leo likes tennis!



(CNS photo/Vatican Media)

It was "love-love" when Pope Leo met a sinner – we're talking about Jannik Sinner, the No. 1 ranked tennis player in the world! Sinner heard that Pope Leo is a big fan of his and the pope also plays tennis, so he stopped by the Vatican May 14 for a visit.

Sinner gave the pope a custom-made white tennis racket, which matches the special white cassock that only the pope wears. Pope Leo pointed to his cassock and said he could play in Wimbledon now (the tournament has an all-white dress code!).

Sinner held up a tennis ball and asked Pope Leo if he wanted to play.

"We'll break something!" Pope Leo laughed, as he looked at all the antique furniture in the room. "Better not!"

Have a slice of Poperoni pizza

The pepperoni pizza at Aurelio's Pizzeria in Homewood, Illinois, has been renamed "Poperoni Pizza." Pope Leo ate at this restaurant a few months ago, when he was still Cardinal Robert F. Prevost. (OSV News photo/Carlos Osorio, Reuters)

