



HOLY INFANT SENIOR NEWSLETTER

February 2026
Issue # 221

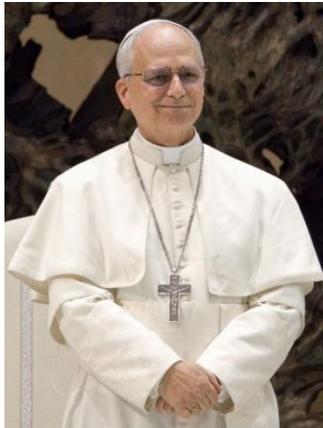


FROM THE EDITOR – By: Maria Dorn

Well, we worked our way through 31 days in January of 2026. Are you finding it easy to write 2026 yet? To be honest, I don't write the date very often so I think it may take me a while. Bob and I returned from a cruise to the Caribbean, we had beautiful weather, sunny and warm. Unfortunately, this caused us to miss the very fun time of Karaoke with the rest of you. I heard from some of you that it was a lot of fun and I've included some pictures that were shared with me at the end of this Newsletter. Valentines Day is right around the corner, and the candy aisles of the stores are calling my name. I am no longer eating candy, so it is like sirens call to a chocoholic. Be sure to recognize your sweetheart with love and attention on the 14th as I'm sure you do every other day of the year. Lent starts on the 18th and I hope to make it one of the best Lents ever. The Hallow and the Ascension apps are some of the many where you can find some excellent content to make the season come alive for you and help you be ready for the Resurrection on Easter.

Remember, if you ever have suggestions or an article that you think other members would enjoy, you can call or send an email to mariadorn@hotmail.com. Be sure to put HIS in the subject line.

Thanks, and I look forward to keeping you 'in the know'.



Spotlight on Pope Leo XIV From wikipedia Written works before the papacy and theology of leadership

Main article: [Pope Leo XIV bibliography](#)

Given his focus on mission, the writings of Prevost before his election were few.^{[122][123]} When he was global head of the Augustinians, the *Rule and Constitutions of the Order of Saint Augustine* was "issued by Authority of the Prior General, Robert F. Prevost" in 2002.^[124]

Aside from four journal articles published mostly in Augustinian journals, his main work of scholarship is his doctoral

dissertation, *The office and authority of the local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine*, published by the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in 1987.

The work has been noted for its legal precision, Augustinian roots, [postconciliar engagement](#) and historical depth.^[125] Much of the commentary see this work as a window to his "vision of the church" and "theology of leadership."^{[126][127][128]}

In his thesis, Prevost sees that authority is received from above, and therefore "the substance of the office of the superior is to obey; to obey the will of God and to put great effort into trying to know it, to formulate it and to specify it for his subjects."^[125] Leadership is based on [Jesus Christ's threefold offices of teaching, sanctifying and governing](#), who sanctifies by prayer and builds community by being centered on the Mass, having

"the care of the Brothers, 'especially in spiritual matters.'" The prior must help make the



sacraments regular and reverent, protecting "each brother's freedom of conscience while promoting 'frequent' confession."^[126]

Based on St. Augustine's concept, Prevost sees authority as a service.^[129] He says that service means "listening to what the Spirit is saying in His people so that His projects can be carried out freely and willingly. The Prior then is called to listen, so that together they can discern and implement what the Spirit inspires."^[127]

Papacy (2025–present)

Election

See also: [2025 conclave](#)

Pope Leo XIV waving from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica in his first public appearance

In pre-conclave speculation, Prevost was considered a [dark horse](#) compared to more prominent [papabili](#),^{[130][131]} although he was noted to be an ally of Pope Francis and a possible compromise candidate.^{[130][132]} His American nationality had been regarded as a potential stumbling block to his candidacy, reflecting unease about enhancing the United States's geopolitical power.^{[8][133]} Prevost was well aware of this, explaining to a friend by text message: "I'm an American, I can't be elected".^[9] Supporters argued that he represented a "dignified [middle of the road](#)".^[134]

Prevost was elected pope on May 8, 2025, the second day of the [conclave](#), on the fourth ballot. White smoke appeared from the [Sistine Chapel](#) at 18:07 [CEST \(UTC+2\)](#), signifying to the public that a pope had been chosen.^[135] After accepting his election and adopting his [papal name](#), Leo embraced his fellow cardinals upon exiting the Sistine Chapel.

Cardinal [Dominique Mamberti](#), the [cardinal protodeacon](#), made the traditional [Latin](#) proclamation, *[Habemus papam](#)*, announcing Pope Leo XIV to the public for the first time from the central [loggia](#) of [St. Peter's Basilica](#).^{[136][137]} According to [Italian law enforcement](#), by the time of the *[habemus papam](#)* announcement, there were up to 150,000 in the square.^[138]

Leo appeared wearing the traditional [papal stole](#) and [mozzetta](#),^[139] vestments [Pope Francis](#) did not wear upon his greeting of the world following his election.^{[140][141]} Leo's [pectoral cross](#) was one he wore during the conclave, a gift from the Postulator General of the Augustinian Order when he became a cardinal, containing relics from Saint Augustine and his mother [Saint Monica](#), among others.^[142] He then delivered his first address to Rome and the world in Italian, advocating for peace and dialogue, expressing gratitude for the legacy of Pope Francis and quoting Saint Augustine; he also greeted his former diocese of Chiclayo, Peru, in Spanish. After the speech, he imparted his first *[Urbi et Orbi](#)* blessing in Latin.^{[143][144][145]}

Leo XIV is the first pope from the [Order of Saint Augustine](#) and the second pope from [the Americas](#) (after Pope Francis), and is counted as the 267th pope.^{[146][12][147][j]} He is a [dual citizen](#) of [Peru](#) and the [United States](#).^{[148][149][150]} He is the first American pope,^[151] in [the sense of being](#) the first born in the United States.^{[152][153][154]} He is the second to be a native English speaker, after the English-born [Adrian IV](#) (r. 1154–1159), who would have spoken [Middle English](#).^[155] Leo is also the first pope born after [World War II](#) and during the [Cold War](#), and thus the first to be born in the [Baby Boomer](#) generation.^{[156][157]} While Leo is the first pope from the Order of Saint Augustine,^{[158][159]} six previous popes belonged to other orders which follow the [Augustinian Rule](#), the last one prior to Leo being [Pope Eugene IV](#) (1431–1447).^[160]



Inauguration

Main article: [Inauguration of Pope Leo XIV](#)

Pope Leo XIV's first [popemobile](#) ride during his inauguration

On May 9, the day after his election, Leo celebrated his first [Mass](#) as pope in the Sistine Chapel before the assembled [College of Cardinals](#). During the Mass, he preached against the lack of faith in the world, and spoke of a church that would act as a "beacon that illuminates the dark nights of this world".^[161] Media reported that Leo would take up permanent residence in the [papal apartments](#) in the [Apostolic Palace](#) rather than in the [Domus Sanctae Marthae](#) where Francis lived.^{[162][163][164]}

Leo's [inauguration Mass](#) was held on May 18 in [St. Peter's Square](#).^{[165][166][167]} During the Mass, he received the [pallium](#) and his [Ring of the Fisherman](#) before 12 representatives of the people of God, including cardinals and bishops, who vowed obedience to the new pope.^[168] On May 25, he was formally installed as [Bishop of Rome](#) in a ceremony at the [Archbasilica of Saint John Lateran](#).^[169]

Post-election reactions and impact

Main article: [International reactions to the election of Pope Leo XIV](#)

In [Chiclayo](#), thousands crowded the city square for a Mass of Thanksgiving following Leo's election. Similar Masses were celebrated all over Peru.^[170] In the US, an estimate more than 30,000 people purchased tickets for Chicago's [Rate Field](#) for a youth-focused celebration with a video message of Leo XIV who urged Catholics to be "beacons of hope".^[171]

Political leaders sent their congratulations. President [Donald Trump](#) stated that it is "a Great Honor for our Country", while Vice President [JD Vance](#), a Catholic, talked about Catholics and other Christians praying "for his successful work leading the Church". The European Council President [António Costa](#) said it was "a moment of hope".^[172]

Early acts

On June 5, 2025, Leo nominated Joseph Lin Yuntuan as [auxiliary bishop of Fuzhou](#), which was approved by Chinese authorities on June 11 as part of a 2018 agreement between the People's Republic of China and the Holy See under Pope Francis.^[173] On July 5, Leo appointed French archbishop [Thibault Verny](#) to succeed [Seán Patrick O'Malley](#) as president of the [Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors](#). O'Malley endorsed the selection, describing Verny as "a collaborative leader committed to advancing the global adoption of protection and safeguarding, to as best possible assure the safety of those in the care of the Church throughout the world."^[174] On July 6, Leo revived the papal practice of taking summer residence at the [Castel Gandolfo](#), which Francis had discontinued.^[175]

On September 7, 2025, Leo presided over the canonization of [Carlo Acutis](#) and [Pier Giorgio Frassati](#) at a mass in [Saint Peter's Square](#).^[176] A month later, his first [Apostolic journey](#), a [visit to Turkey and Lebanon](#), was announced for November 27 through December 2.^[177] On November 21, 2025, Leo signed an amendment to the 2023 law allowing women to become president of the [Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State](#), removing a requirement that would-be officeholders must hold the rank of [cardinal](#).^[178] On November 27, 2025, Leo made his [first overseas visit as pope](#), arriving in Turkey to commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of the [Council of Nicaea](#) with [Patriarch Bartholomew](#) of the [Eastern Orthodox Church](#),^{[179][180]} while in Istanbul, he visited [the Blue Mosque](#).^{[181][182]} Leo later visited Lebanon, visiting and praying at the site of the [2020 Beirut explosion](#)^[183] and later the tomb of [Charbel Makhlof](#)^[184] before returning to Rome on December 2.^[183]





STEPHEN MINISTRY

By Alberta Gilbertson

Life can be challenging, and at times we all face situations where we could use a little extra support. Whether it's the loss of a loved one, illness, job loss, or another life difficulty, you don't have to face it alone. At Holy Infant, our Stephen Ministers are here to walk alongside you. These caring members of our parish are specially trained to provide one-to-one, confidential, Christ-centered care and support. If you or someone you know, a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or family member—could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, we invite you to reach out. To learn more, please contact Alberta McGilligan at 636-399-6567 or albertamcgilligan@yahoo.com, or Michele McCartney at 636-675-1159 or furniturelady@charter.net.

Adult Bingo

February 21, 2025
Holy Infant School –
Upper Cafeteria
248 New Ballwin Road
Doors Open at 5:00 P.M.
Bingo Starts at 7:00 P.M.
\$25.00 per Person



Admission includes 15 Games of Bingo
Beer, Soda, Wine, and Water.
Food available for purchase
Sponsored by the Holy Infant Knights of
Columbus



Birthdays -February

By Theresa Bichsel

Wishing each of you, and any others I may have missed, a very Happy Birthday!

Eileen	Buehrle	8-Feb	Marie	McKeiver	18-Feb
John	Nortman	8-Feb	Peggy	Buechler	20-Feb
Tom	McElroy	10-Feb	Mary	Daus	20-Feb
Betty	Kayser	11-Feb	Beth	Colonna	26-Feb
Linda	Gianoulakis	12-Feb	Bernie	Flacke	4-Mar
Jim	Gilliam	13-Feb	Bob	Komor	5-Mar
Eileen	Bishop	18-Feb			



Sentiments

By Carol Laupp

Since our last HIS newsletter, the following sentiments were sent to:

Get Well Cards: Bill George, Bob Komor, Bob Dorn, Jeanne Adler

Sympathy Mass Card: Bob Hoelscher Family

If you know of anyone in our HIS group that could use a Get-Well card, a Thinking of or Praying for You card, a Sympathy card, etc., please call Carol Laupp at 636-256-0924 and she will send them a card from the HIS group.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

By: Kathie Hanneke

The Search, is still in process for Tuesdays, Jan. 10 and Feb. 17 at 7 pm, exploring interesting topics such as: "Am I Saved?" and "Why a Church?" Each session stands on its own, so it's not too late to join us in an hour and 15 minutes of video, small group discussions and prayer. It's a great way to encounter life-changing conversations!

Parish Mission, "Create in me a clean heart."

We will be reflecting on the last three Sundays in Lent known as the Scrutinies in OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) During this year's Mission, all parishioners and guests are invited to dive deeper into these readings to similarly prepare our hearts for Easter.

Tuesday, March 3 (6:30 Mass, 7:00 Mission Talk) *From the Well to the World* by Maria Bremerkamp, FOCUS parish missionary at Immaculate Conception, Dardenne Prairie.

Thursday, March 5 (6:30 pm Mass, 7:00 Reconciliation)

Holy Infant priests and guest confessors will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10 (6:30 pm Mass, 7:00 pm Mission Talk)

Seeing Jesus Clearly: The Healed Believer Born Blind by Fr. Charles Samson, Assistant Professor of Biblical Theology, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary; young adult ministry chaplain.

Tuesday, March 24 (6:30 pm Mass, 7:00 pm Mission Talk, 8:00 pm Reception)

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus: Beloved Friends of God by Fr. Joseph Martin, Associate Pastor, St. Joseph, Cottleville

Carol's Corner - by Carol Komor



Because it's almost Valentine's Day, I've decided to share the senior version of a love song with each of you. It lyrics are taken from a beloved children's hymn and I hope you enjoy it.

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus love me, this I know, though my hair is white as snow, though my sight is growing dim, still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

Yes, Jesus Loves Me.....Yes, Jesus Loves Me
Yes, Jesus Loves Me.....The Bible Tells Me So.

Though my steps are oh, so slow, with my hand in His I'll go, on through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way.

(CHORUS)

Though I am no longer young, I have much which He's begun, let me serve Christ with a smile, go with others the extra mile.

(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long, in my heart He puts a song, telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near."

(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done, and life's victories have been won, He will take me home above, then I'll understand His Love.

(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does he know? Have I ever told Him so? Jesus loves to hear me say, that I love Him every day.

Gene's Funnies -

By Gene Bestgen



What is King Arthur's favorite fish? **A swordfish**

Why did the policeman give the sheep a ticket?
He made an illegal ewe turn.





Odds and Ends

By HIS members

THANK YOU!!! - Clients of St Wenceslaus Food Pantry

Thanks to Holy Infant Seniors Club for their gifts of gloves, hats, socks and food to the clients of St Wenceslaus Food Pantry. Yesterday at the monthly food pantry at St Wenceslaus Parish we were swamped with folks in need of food (store's food prices are high) and more folks getting gloves, hats (love those hand knit hats- pretty colors for ladies and kids), and socks. We have an ongoing need for your gifts. We also need your PRAYERS for the people who come for help from the pantry and the Holy Infant members (Koop and his workers) who help the pantry. Speaking of prayers, we get a daily list of folks and countries to pray for on the news programs. Keep those Rosary prayers going to God. Thanks for your help.

RECIPES WANTED! - Nancy Turpin

The food brought to the potluck was **SOOOO** delicious. We are asking everyone to bring their recipes in, and Maria will publish them in the Newsletter. It's great to share all these wonderful family traditions.

FREE TAX PREPARATION – Janet Lowe

St Louis Taxpayers Assistance program prepares tax returns for free for households with income up to \$69,000. You can sign up for an appointment at any of our eight sites throughout the region at stlouistap.org or call 314-325-9941. Janet Lowe, one of our club members, has volunteered for this organization for over 20 years and they provide a great service for all ages.

Worn Flags Disposal – Olivia Pieknik

Effective immediately, please note that she will **no longer be able to collect worn flags** at our HIS meetings. For dignified disposal, please deposit flags at VFW or American Legions Posts, or at City Halls in Manchester, Ellisville and Wildwood. God Bless America!

Newsletter Articles or Items of Interest needed - Maria Dorn

Please share any types of interesting articles, tips, notes of thanks or recipes with fellow HIS members. This is YOUR Newsletter; I am just a collaborator.

Meal Train – Maria Dorn & Becky O'Brien

Please keep this program in mind when you or one of the HIS members needs some support. If you want to be added to the list of volunteers, let Maria know by calling 314-610-8784 or email mariadorn@hotmail.com. You can also reach out to Becky O'Brien by calling 314-973-4515 or email at beckyo8@att.net





Parish News

By Sandy Hughes

February

- 6-7 6th Grade Play: 7pm Parish Center
- 8 SuPeRbOwL Sunday
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 16 President's Day Holiday, Parish office closed.
- 18 Ash Wednesday: Masses: 6am, 8am, 9:15(school) and 7pm
- 20 HI Seniors' Board Meeting: 10am-11am, Holy Infant Room
- 20 First Fish Fry: 4:30pm-7pm
- 20 Way of the Cross: 7pm every Friday evening during Lent.
- 23 Way of the Cross: school 2pm-2:45pm, (2-23, 3-2, 3-23 and 3-30)
- 21 K of C Bingo: Doors open at 5pm, Upper Cafeteria
- 22-22 Women's Welcome Retreat Weekend
- 28 Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner: 4:30pm-7pm, Upper Cafeteria

March

Parish Night of Reconciliation – Date to be determined.

- 3 Parish Mission: 3-10 and 3-24 - in church at 7pm
- 5 Seniors' Meeting: 10am, Lower Cafeteria



DID YOU KNOW

By our board and members

- **That you can get your income taxes done for FREE?** - St Louis Taxpayers Assistance program prepares tax returns for free for households with income up to \$69,000. You can sign up for an appointment at any of our eight sites throughout the region at stlouistap.org or call 314-325-9941. Janet Lowe, one of our club members, has volunteered for this organization for over 20 years and they provide a great service for all ages.
- That you can get clear rinsed dishes without Finish? Put soap in the dishwasher as usual, but then instead of buying Finish to help it rinse just add a drop of Dawn to the dispenser with the dishwashing soap. It works like a charm to rinse the dishes clear. 😊
- That you could find our HIS Newsletter through the online bulletin? Go to the website and scroll down till you see HIS Newsletters. We have them all since September of 2015.
<https://holyinfantballwin.org/news/newsletter/>
- That any of our HI Seniors can submit words of wisdom they want to share to this column? We can all benefit from these little gems. Just send to mariadorn@hotmail.com or call Maria at 314-610-8784.



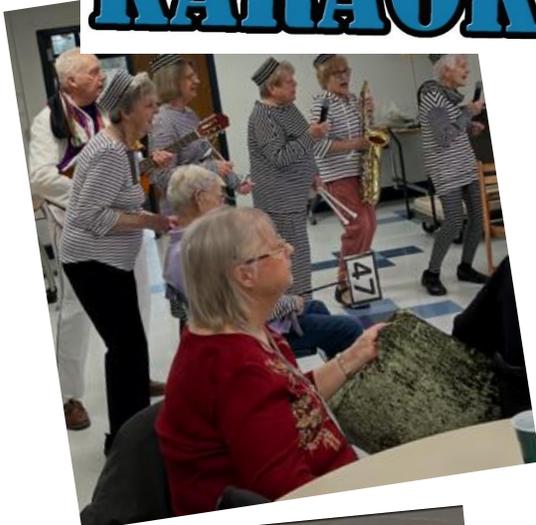
OUR THANKS GO OUT TO....

submitted by HIS members

- Olivia Pieknik for collecting worn flags for dignified disposal over the years.
- All those members who donate to the FREE table. It's great to get new puzzles and drop off perfectly good ones that you've already done that others can enjoy.
- All our members who are bringing such delicious desserts to our luncheons. Homemade is the BEST



KARAOKE



2024-2025 H.I.S. Board Members

Bob Maloney	President	636-230-7988			
Becky O'Brien	VP	314-973-4515	Gene Hanneke	Recycle Coord.	314-913-4230
Mary Daus	Secretary	314-307-1366	Nancy & Don	Refreshment	314-800-7420
Linda Gatton	Treasurer	314-853-8185	Turpin &		
Mary Mallery	Attendance	314-616-4809	Bernie Flacke		636-227-3825
Carol Laupp	Sentiments	636-256-0924	Eileen Buehrle	Service & PAC	636-230-5435
Kathie &	Graphics	314-704-2350	Rev. Edward Stanger	Spiritual Dir.	636-227-7440
Gene Hanneke		314-913-4230	Mary Jane Bahr	Trips	636-227-8927
Mary Mallery	Historian	314-616-4809	Becky O'Brien		314-973-4515
Mary Schlemeier &	Hospitality	636-391-9556	Marcia Faquin		314-498-0668
Brenda George		636-394-2286	Joan & Tom Wojciechowski		636-346-3190
Theresa Bichsel	Directory &	314-564-7591	Monica Vocarro &	50/50	314-518-6793
	Membership		Carol Komor &		636-230-9697
Maria Dorn	Newsletter &		Rose Birkner		636-485-6415
	Meal Train	314-610-87894			



Eileen Bishop

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Ballwin, MO 63021

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Birthday 2/18