



September Domestic Church At-Home Family Project

Welcome back to another faith-filled Religious Education year!

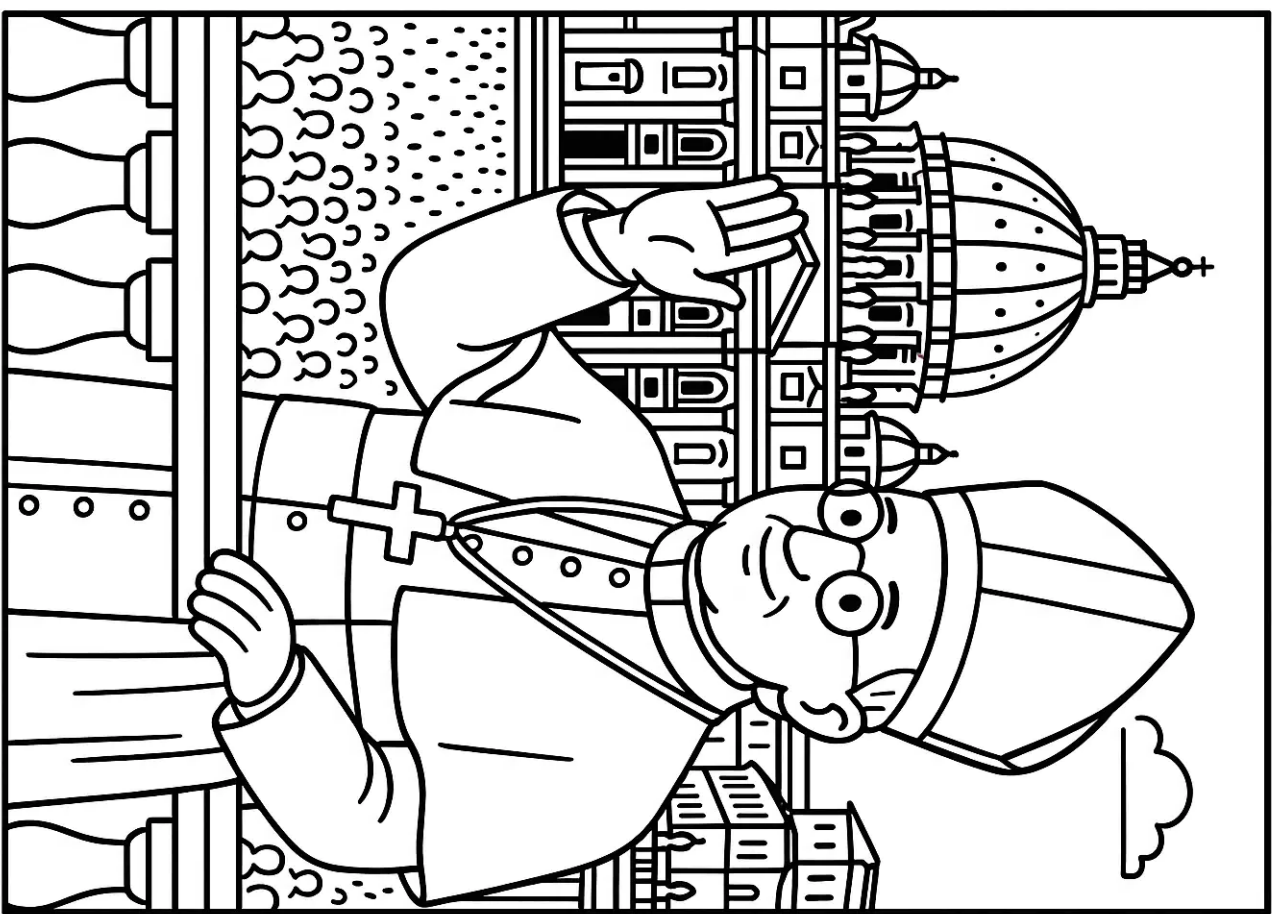
This past May, after the sudden death of Pope Francis, the Holy Spirit blessed the Roman Catholic Church with a new Pope – Leo XIV. Because Francis was chosen as Pope in 2013, he was the only one that our children in Religious Education have known. The selection of Pope Leo XIV introduces us to a new way of being Church because no two popes are exactly alike, and Pope Leo is the 266th person to be pope since Jesus himself called St. Peter to be shepherd of his people.

Pope Leo is the first person born in the United States to be selected to lead the Catholic Church (he also is a citizen of Peru, in South America, since he was a missionary and bishop in that country). He grew up near the city of Chicago and he loves baseball! Pope Leo is one of us.

Like all priests and bishops, Pope Leo guides, teaches and blesses the Catholic faithful. Still, his role in the Church is special because as pope, he is responsible for the spiritual health and growth of 1.4 billion Catholics throughout the world! That's a big responsibility, so the Pope really needs all the help and support we can give him with our prayers.

On September 14th, Pope Leo celebrated his 70th birthday. (That date also happens to be the Feast of St. Robert Bellarmine for whom the Holy Father was named – Robert Prevost.) For our first **Domestic Church At-Home Project** this year, you and your family are invited to create a birthday card (PDF attached) to send to the Holy Father. Since he became pope, Leo has called on all people to pray for unity and peace in our world and communities. His first words after being elected pope were **“Peace be with you all.”** So, in addition to wishing Pope Leo a happy birthday, share with him what your family's hopes and dreams are for peace.

Print and bring your card to the Religious Education Office, or scan and email it to us at rsteffens@strobert.cc. **The cards will be assembled and mailed to Pope Leo at the Vatican!**



POPE LEO XIV

