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**DIOCESE OF  
ROCKFORD**

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# PRESS RELEASE

## Bishop Malloy's Statement on the Election of Pope Leo XIV

ROCKFORD—Bishop David J. Malloy, Bishop of the Rockford Diocese, today issued a statement on the election of the new leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Leo XIV. Here is the full statement.

“On behalf of the more than 400,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Rockford here in Northern Illinois, I extend a joyful and prayer-filled welcome to the news of the election of our new Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, a Chicago native, who has been chosen as the Successor of St. Peter today, May 8th.

“As the spiritual leader of the world’s 1.4 billion Catholics, I know that, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he will work tirelessly to strengthen the faith and unite us, and he will strive to serve all people of the world with dignity, respect and love.

“Like his most recent predecessors St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, Pope Leo has already indicated to the faithful and the world, in his first message, his desire to continue the mission of the Catholic Church, working for peace and unity both in and outside the Catholic faith, bringing the timeless message of God’s saving mercy and love to all corners of the earth.

“As bishop I look forward to the guidance and encouragement of our new pontiff in our common mission of living and witnessing to our Catholic faith in this diocese and beyond.”

***NOTE: Bishop Malloy will celebrate a special Mass for the intention of our new Pope Leo XIV on Friday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter. All priests of the diocese and the public are invited to celebrate this Mass and joyful occasion. The Mass will be livestreamed on the Diocese of Rockford Facebook and YouTube Channels.***

Established in 1908, the Diocese of Rockford is comprised of 105 parishes in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties in Northern Illinois serving a Catholic population of more than 300,000. For more about the Catholic Diocese of Rockford visit [www.rockforddiocese.org](http://www.rockforddiocese.org).