



Pope Leo XIV's inaugural speech is a rich tapestry of theological symbolism, ecclesial continuity, and pastoral vision. Below is a detailed breakdown of its most significant dimensions:

1. Peace as the Central Theme: A “Disarmed and Disarming” Peace

The pontiff opens with Christ's Easter greeting: “*Peace be with you!*” (Jn 20:19), but this is not a generic peace—it is a **transformative peace**:

- **“Disarmed”**: It is not imposed by force but born of God's love.
- **“Disarming”**: It has the power to break down hostility, softening hardened hearts.

This peace **is not merely a human aspiration but a divine gift**, rooted in the Resurrection. By linking it to **Pope Francis' blessing**, Leo XIV emphasizes that **the Church must be an instrument of reconciliation in a fractured world**.

2. Continuity with Pope Francis: Gratitude and Legacy

The new Pope explicitly acknowledges his predecessor's magisterium:

- **“The weak yet courageous voice of Pope Francis”**: A reference to his humble yet prophetic style, particularly his *Urbi et Orbi* blessing during the pandemic.
- **“God loves us, God loves everyone, and evil will not prevail”**: Echoing Francis' message of universal mercy.

Leo XIV does not seek rupture but rather **continuity with a synodal Church, close to the poor, and committed to justice**.

3. Synodal Ecclesiology: “Walking Together”

The Pope insists on an **outgoing Church** (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*):

- **“A synodal Church on the move”**: Reinforces the synodal process promoted by



Francis, where all (bishops, laity, religious) participate in the mission.

- **“Building bridges, not walls”**: Rejects polarization, promoting **interreligious and social dialogue**.
 - **“Together, we walk toward the homeland God has prepared for us”**: An eschatological vision of the Church as the **pilgrim People of God** (LG 9).
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4. Augustinian Identity: “With You, I Am a Christian; For You, I Am a Bishop”

By quoting **St. Augustine**, Leo XIV reveals his spirituality:

- **Pastoral humility**: The bishop is first a **disciple among disciples**.
- **Service, not power**: The papacy is not a privilege but a **ministry of love**.
- **Ecclesial communion**: Authority is exercised in **communion with God's people**.

This reference suggests a **pontificate that is theologically profound yet pastorally close**, in the tradition of Augustine, the Doctor of Grace.

5. Missionary Focus and Option for the Poor

The speech emphasizes a **missionary and Samaritan Church**:

- **“Especially close to those who suffer”**: A preferential option for the marginalized.
 - **“My beloved diocese of Chiclayo, Peru”**: A symbolic gesture toward **Latin America**, a key region for global Catholicism.
 - **“Missionaries without fear”**: A call to proclaim the Gospel boldly, even in hostile contexts.
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6. Mariology: The Supplication to Our Lady of Pompeii

Providentially, the Pope begins his ministry on the **feast of the Supplication to Our Lady of Pompeii**:



- **Mary as a model for the Church:** Intercessor, mother, and disciple.
- **“Let us pray together for peace”:** Marian prayer as an **antidote to war and division**.

This invocation reinforces **popular piety** as a path of evangelization.

7. Rhetorical Style and Symbolic Gestures

- **Simple yet profound language:** Accessible, yet theologically grounded.
 - **Gestures of closeness:** Mentioning Chiclayo shows **affection for his former flock**.
 - **Hopeful tone:** **“Evil will not prevail”** is a countercultural message in times of crisis.
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Conclusion: What Does This Speech Reveal About Leo XIV's Pontificate?

1. **Reformist continuity:** Following Francis, but with an Augustinian accent.
2. **Synodality as a priority:** A participatory and outgoing Church.
3. **Peace and justice as key themes:** In a world marked by war and inequality.
4. **Incarnate spirituality:** Theology deeply rooted in pastoral care.

Presentation Speech of Pope Leo XIV:

Peace be with all of you!

Dearest brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who gave His life for God's flock. I, too, wish for this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families, all people wherever they may be, all nations, and the entire earth. Peace be with you!

This is the peace of the Risen Christ—a peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. It comes from God, who loves



us all unconditionally. We still carry in our ears the faint yet ever-courageous voice of Pope Francis as he blessed Rome. The Pope who blessed Rome was blessing the world, the entire world, on that Easter morning! Allow me to continue that same blessing: God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! We are all in God's hands! Therefore, without fear, hand in hand with God and with one another, let us move forward. We are disciples of Christ. Christ goes before us. The world needs His light. Humanity needs Him as the bridge to be reached by God and His love. Help us, too—and then help one another—to build bridges through dialogue, through encounter, uniting all to become one people always at peace. Thank you, Pope Francis!

I also wish to thank all the brother cardinals who have elected me to be the Successor of Peter and to walk alongside you as a united Church, always seeking peace and justice, striving to work as men and women faithful to Jesus Christ—fearlessly proclaiming the Gospel, being missionaries. I am a son of St. Augustine, an Augustinian, who said: “With you, I am a Christian; for you, I am a bishop.” In this sense, we can all walk together toward that homeland God has prepared for us.

To the Church of Rome, a special greeting!

Together, we must seek how to be a missionary Church—a Church that builds bridges, fosters dialogue, always open to welcome, like this square with its outstretched arms. All—all who need our charity, our presence, dialogue, and love.

And if you will allow me, a word, a greeting to all, and in a special



way to my beloved diocese of Chiclayo, in Peru, where a faithful people have accompanied their bishop, shared their faith, and given so much—so very much—to remain a Church faithful to Jesus Christ.

To all of you, brothers and sisters of Rome, Italy, and the entire world, we want to be a synodal Church—a Church that walks together, a Church that always seeks peace, always seeks charity, always strives to be close, especially to those who suffer.

Today is the day of the Supplication to the Virgin of Pompeii. Our Mother Mary always desires to walk with us, to stay close, to help us with her intercession and her love.

So now, I would like to pray with you. Let us pray together for this new mission, for the entire Church, for peace in the world, and let us ask for this special grace from Mary, our Mother.