

May 8, 2025  
Protocol 05/014

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV  
Apostolic Palace  
VATICAN CITY, 00120

Your Holiness,

Christ is risen!

I write to congratulate Your Holiness upon your election to the See of Rome, the Chair of St. Peter. As the primate of the Orthodox Church in America, it is my special joy to congratulate Your Holiness as the first American pope.

As I greet your election with joy, it is my prayer that Your Holiness might, after the example of your universally venerated predecessor, St. Leo I the Great, always proclaim the Christian faith with boldness and zeal.

Furthermore, just as the faith of St. Leo, articulated at the Fourth Ecumenical Council, remains a bridge between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, it is my hope that, under your pontificate, our Churches might find continued opportunities for cooperation and dialogue as we all seek to proclaim the light-bearing Gospel of the Savior.

May God grant Your Holiness many blessed years and a fruitful pontificate, to the benefit of all Christian believers and the entire world, which Christ our true God made, and for the life of which he died and rose again.

Yours in Our Risen Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read '+Tikhon', written in a cursive, flowing style.

+Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



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