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## **“Leone a Roma”, a documentary from the Vatican media on Prevost’s years in the Eternal City**

A journey through the streets of Rome and the places dear to the Augustinians, gathering stories, images and testimonies from those who knew the future Pope Leo XIV from his arrival from the United States in the 1980s, through his two terms as Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine and his appointment as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. It will be broadcast shortly on Vatican media channels and made available to media organizations upon request, to mark the first anniversary of his election.

VATICAN CITY – There are the memories of those who saw the young Augustinian deacon arrive for the first time at Santa Monica International College, having come to Rome from Chicago in 1981. Then there are the prayers and Masses, the retreats outside the city and the strolls through the city centre, the banter among students and moments of leisure. There are the accounts of those who worked alongside him during his years as Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, a role he held for two terms from 2001 to 2013, amidst meetings, moments of listening, challenges overcome as a community, and journeys to the heart of Africa or the far reaches of Asia and Australia to visit the various missions. There are the memories and images still vivid in the eyes of those who attended his catechism lessons for the children of Cesano, those who saw him kneeling before the shrine of Saint Rita in Cascia or absorbed in prayer before the tomb of Saint Augustine in Pavia, or, again, gathered at the feet of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano. And there are the testimonies of those who worked with him in the Roman Curia, where for two years he held the office of Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops at the behest of Pope Francis, who created him a cardinal.

In short, the documentary “Leone a Roma” – “Leo in Rome” – covers the approximately nineteen years that Robert Francis Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, spent in the Eternal City. The film was produced by Vatican media journalists Felipe Herrera-Espaliat, Salvatore Cernuzio and Tiziana Campisi, with montage by Jaime Vizcaíno Haro and Stefano Anella, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the election of the first American Pope in history, which took place on 8 May 2025. It features faces, voices, stories, revelations and anecdotes from friends, fellow clergy, priests, nuns, young people and married couples who, for a few years or for long periods, stood alongside the man who has been leading the universal Church for a year and who now paint a portrait of a friend, a leader and a shepherd, and is all set against the backdrop of a Rome that has undergone change year by year.

*Leone a Roma* is the third documentary on Pope Leo XIV produced by Vatican media. It follows *León de Perú*, presented in June 2025, on the years of his mission in the South American country, and *Leo from Chicago* on Prevost’s American roots, released in November 2025. The documentary will be broadcast on the official channels of Vatican media on the occasion of the anniversary of the beginning of his Petrine ministry, and will be made available to the media upon request.

TRAILER - “Leone a Roma”, a documentary on Prevost’s years in the Eternal City  
<https://youtu.be/EAllgZkTicI>

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