





Seme PP. XIV



POPE

POPE LEO XIV

Pope Leo XIV's motto and coat of arms

Pope Leo XIV reveals his coat of arms and motto, which clearly reflect his Augustinian roots.

By Vatican News

Pope Leo XIV's coat of arms offers a clear reflection of his Augustinian roots and the values he seeks to promote during his pontificate, particularly unity and communion within the Church.

The shield is divided diagonally into two sections. The upper half features a blue background with a white lily.

The lower half of the shield has a light background and displays an image that recalls the Order of Saint Augustine: a closed book with a heart pierced by an arrow. This is a direct reference to the conversion experience of Saint Augustine himself, who described his

personal encounter with God's Word using the phrase: "Vulnerasti cor meum verbo tuo" - "You have pierced my heart with your Word."



Pope Leo XIV's coat of arms

The motto

Pope Leo XIV has also chosen a motto that reflects this Augustinian tradition: *In Illo uno unum*, which means "In the One, we are one." The phrase is taken from Saint Augustine's *Exposition on Psalm 127*, where he explains that "although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one."

In a 2023 interview with Vatican News' Tiziana Campisi, then-Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost spoke about the significance of this motto: "As can be seen from my episcopal motto, unity and communion are truly part of the charism of the Order of Saint Augustine, and also of my way of acting and thinking," he said. "I believe it is very important to promote communion in the Church, and we know well that communion, participation, and mission are the three key words of the Synod. So, as an Augustinian, for me promoting unity and communion is fundamental."

Saint Augustine's reflection on Psalm 127 highlights the theological foundation of this idea. "Christ - head and body - is one single man. And what is the body of Christ? His Church," Augustine writes. He then adds, "Although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one. We are many and we are one - because we are united to Him, and if our Head is in heaven, the members will follow."

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