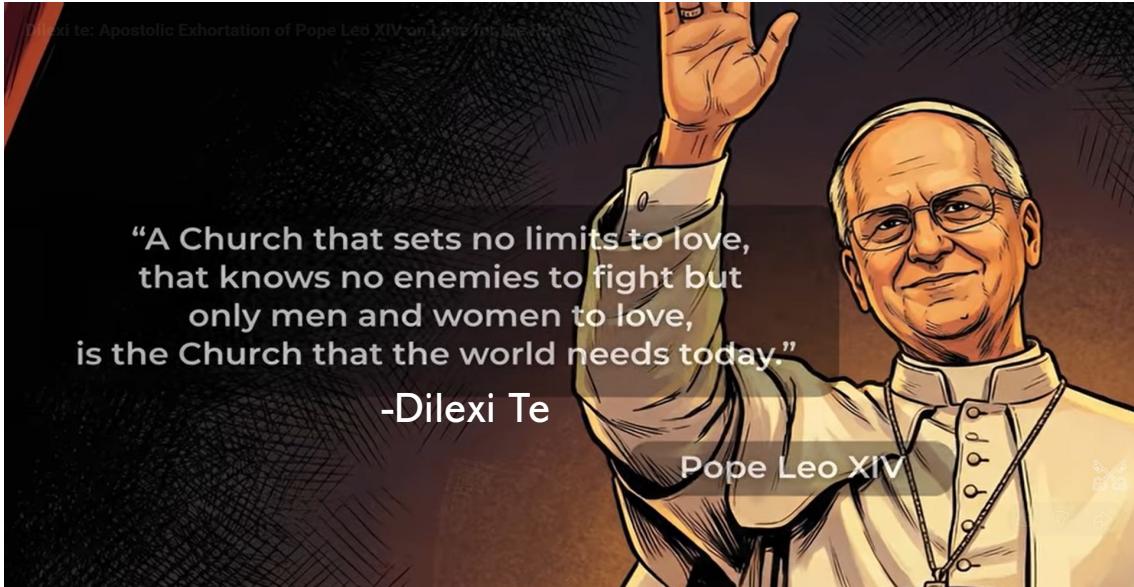


Justice, Peace and Life

January 2026



You can learn more about Pope Leo's first apostolic exhortation, addressed to "all Christians on love for the poor" and entitled ***Dilexi te (I Have Loved You)*** at this [link](#), and find links to the summary image below.

Read the whole document in its entirety at this [link](#).

Start the new year by studying

Wisdom from Pope Leo

"URBI ET ORBI" (To the City and the World) **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIV**

Sisters and brothers, responsibility is the sure way to peace. If all of us, at every level, would stop accusing others and instead acknowledge our own faults, asking God for forgiveness, and if we would truly enter into the suffering of others and stand in solidarity with the weak and the oppressed, then the world would change.

Jesus Christ is our peace first of all because he frees us from sin, and also because he shows us the way to overcome conflicts – all conflicts, whether interpersonal or international. Without a heart freed from sin, a heart that has been forgiven, we cannot be men and women of peace or builders of peace. This is why Jesus was born in Bethlehem and died on the cross: to free us from sin. He is the Savior. With his grace, we can and must each do our part to reject hatred, violence and opposition, and to practice dialogue, peace and reconciliation.

Read Pope Leo's entire message at this [link](#).

You can also read his 2026 World Day of Peace (January 1) message at this [link](#).

The condition of the poor represents a CRY that constantly challenges our life. (9)



The action of God takes care of those who are **discriminated against and oppressed**. (16)



This requires of us also, his Church, a **decisive and radical choice in favor of the weakest**. (16)

We should not lower our guard on poverty! (12)

Christians, also, on many occasions let themselves be infected by unjust worldly ideologies and misguided conclusions. (15)

One cannot replace the Gospel with these ideologies! (15)

We need to dedicate ourselves to that preference for the poor to inaugurate with God a Kingdom of **justice, fraternity and solidarity**. (16)



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Join Catholics around the U.S. in praying the **9 Days for Life novena**, from January 16 until January 24.

This beautiful novena coincides with January 22, the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn, in commemoration of the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1972.

Find the novena and other resources at www.respectlife.org/9-days-daily-prayers

The intentions for the novena include:

**May the tragic practice of abortion end.*

**May each person suffering from participation in abortion find forgiveness, hope, and healing in Christ.*

**May every father of a preborn child lovingly support the mother of his child in welcoming new life.*

9 DAYS FOR LIFE

Fifth Anniversary of the January 6 Attack on the U.S. Capitol

This January 6, 2026 marks five years since the violent mob attacked the U.S. Capitol. Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) at the time, issued the following statement in response:



JOSEPH PREZIOSO / AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"I join people of good will in condemning the violence today at the United States Capitol. This is not who we are as Americans. I am praying for members of Congress and Capitol staff and for the police and all those working to restore order and public safety."

"The peaceful transition of power is one of the hallmarks of this great nation. In this troubling moment, we must recommit ourselves to the values and principles of our democracy and come together as one nation under God. I entrust all of us to the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May she guide us in the ways of peace, and obtain for us wisdom and the grace of a true patriotism and love of country."

"Like those wise ...[Magi], God grant us Your insight and wisdom in the face of disinformation and conflict. Help us find the courage to reject unholy and harmful ideologies, those of white supremacy and Christian nationalism. And we pray to not be silent about the crisis of our democracy. Grant us, we the people of the United States, the strength and the wisdom to do the hard work of shaping the future of our precious and fragile democracy."

-Mary Novak, executive director,
Network Lobby for
Catholic Social Justice

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