

## A Prayer for the First Year of Pope Leo XIV

God of wisdom and wonder, you meet us in classrooms and churches, in our homes and in the streets, through strangers and friends, in questions, ambitions, failures, and hopes, in every place where we are still becoming.

We thank you for the first year of Pope Leo's leadership—for his call to courage in a complicated world, for his faith in the power of mercy, love and compassion, and for his belief that the Church can grow, learn, and change.

Walk with us as we search for you in all things—in science and story, in silence and protest, in the beauty of creation and the struggle for justice.

Give us curious minds that are not afraid to ask hard questions, open hearts that can listen deeply to God within our restless hearts so that we make space for others, and brave spirits that stand up for what is truthful, right, loving, and dignified.

As Pope Leo has reminded us to care for the earth, help us protect what you have made—to see climate, land, and water not as problems to solve, but as sacred gifts to love.

As he has called for justice, teach us to notice who is left out, to speak when silence would be easier, and to act with love and compassion even when it costs us something.

As he has pointed us toward unity, help us build communities where differences are honored and everyone belongs.

Bless Pope Leo with wisdom and resilience, and bless us with the courage to live our faith out loud—in our schools, our friendships, and our daily choices.

May we keep learning, keep seeking, and keep finding you—in every moment, in every place, in every person. Through Jesus, who walked among us and showed us the way.

Amen.

*Jocelyn A. Sideco*