

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH JOINING THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL IN OUR COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING THE HISTORIC ELECTION OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV AS THE 267TH POPE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE FIRST PONTIFF FROM THE UNITED STATES TO SHEPHERD THE GLOBAL CATHOLIC FLOCK; AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW AT THE PASSING OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS, HONORING HIS ENDURING LEGACY AS A BEACON OF HUMILITY, COMPASSION, AND MORAL COURAGE; AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THIS RESOLUTION TO PARISH ADMINISTRATORS OF SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES, SAINT PATRICK, AND SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, AS WELL AS TO HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP THOMAS WENSKI.

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2025, the Catholic Church entered a new chapter in its sacred history with the election of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, born Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Pope Leo XIV becomes the 267th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, the first pontiff born in the United States and the first to hold dual citizenship with Peru, symbolizing the Church's continued expansion as a truly global spiritual home; and

WHEREAS, his lifelong commitment to missionary work, particularly his years of ministry in Peru and later service as Bishop of Chiclayo, reflect a deep devotion to faith, humility, and service to the poor and vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election, Pope Leo XIV served as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, where he was recognized as a compassionate leader and a voice for unity, justice, and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach joyfully celebrates the election of Pope Leo XIV and extends its heartfelt prayers for his papacy to be one of peace, healing, and light in a complex world; and

WHEREAS, as the Church looks to the future with renewed hope, we also pause with deep reverence to mourn the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis made history in 2013 as the first pope from the Americas, the first Jesuit pontiff, and the first in modern times to succeed a pope who had resigned, inspiring the world with his humility and moral clarity; and

WHEREAS, he lived simply and led boldly—riding public transportation, residing in humble quarters, and famously declaring, “My people are poor, and I am one of them”; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis dedicated his papacy to lifting the voices of the marginalized, standing with refugees, the poor, and indigenous communities, and urging the world to dismantle injustice and exclusion; and

WHEREAS, he welcomed LGBTQ individuals with compassion, advocated for civil protections for same-sex couples, and championed a Church rooted in mercy and inclusivity, proclaiming, “Who am I to judge?”; and

WHEREAS, he issued the landmark encyclical *Laudato Si’* – On Care for Our Common Home, becoming a global moral leader in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis was a prophetic voice for women’s leadership, an unflinching critic of human trafficking and modern slavery, and a courageous advocate for dignity, peace, and global solidarity; and

WHEREAS, his life and teachings will remain an enduring light to people of all faiths, calling the world to greater compassion, justice, and unity

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby join the Catholic faithful in our community and around the world in celebrating the historic election of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV as the 267th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, the first pontiff from the United States to shepherd the global Catholic flock; and express profound sorrow at the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, honoring his extraordinary legacy as a servant of the poor and prophet of peace; and direct the City Clerk to transmit this Resolution to the parish administrators of Saint Francis de Sales, Saint Patrick, and Saint Joseph Catholic Churches in the City of Miami Beach, as well as to His Excellency Archbishop Thomas Wenski.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

5/13/2025
Date