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# Letter to the Faith and Light communities



Salamanca, 8 May 2025

On 21 April, Pope Francis passed away in Rome after more than 12 years as head of the Catholic Church.

On 8 May, the new successor to Peter, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, was elected during a conclave and given the name Leo XIV.

In light of these two events, I encourage all the communities to remember Pope Francis with gratitude during one of your upcoming meetings, in the form of a short prayer in which we thank God for his life and generous dedication. During his pontificate, he repeatedly reminded us that there is room for everyone in the Church and that we should not be afraid, even of making mistakes. He never tired of telling us that the poor are at the heart of the Gospel.

On 2 October 2021, he received a delegation from Faith and Light International in Rome on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our movement. His words were a source of deep encouragement for all of us, and once again he reminded us of our mission as a Faith and Light community to be a sign of communion and leaven in the world, bearers of reconciliation and peace :



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*"The presence of Faith and Light has been and is a prophecy because the most fragile people are often rejected and regarded as useless. And your prophecy is even more important today, to fight the culture of rejection and to remind everyone that diversity is an asset and must never become grounds for exclusion and discrimination."*

I also ask you for a very special prayer of intercession for the new Pope Leo XIV. Accepting this service requires a generous response to the call of the Holy Spirit and involves carrying a heavy cross on many occasions. Let us remain faithful to our prayer and remain available so that our mission in the world and in the different churches continues to develop.

We welcome the new successor of Peter with joy and hope. At Faith and Light, we also know what it means to accept responsibilities and to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten our discernment in international, provincial or community assemblies when we have to elect coordinators.

May our gratitude to Francis and our prayers for Leo XIV continue to nourish our enthusiasm and encourage us to remain faithful to our vocation, in our communities, giving the best of ourselves and offering what we are, even if it is sometimes insufficient, broken or cracked. God loves us because He loves what is fragile and small.

*In the storms that the people and their families experience, may you be a small boat on which everyone can find a place, in the certainty that the Lord Jesus is on this boat. May the sun of faith and hope that rises above the clouds of our fears and insecurities accompany you always on the journey that still awaits you. May the Lord bless you and the Virgin Mary watch over you. And please, do not forget to pray for me. Thank you!*  
(Pope Francis to the Faith and Light communities).

**United in Jesus.**

Raúl Izquierdo García  
International coordinator

