

MAY 2025

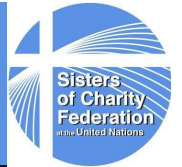
The UN & YOU

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AT A GLANCE

- Hope in Pope Leo XIV
- World Social Summit
- Earth Day Celebration

From the NGO Desk



Hope in Pope Leo XIV



When the white smoke filled the Vatican sky recently, as a Setonian/Vincentian family, we prayed the successor for St. Peter would be one who knew and loved the poor as our Founders did and as Pope Francis modeled during his tenure.

We are blessed that Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, now, Pope Leo XIV, emerged on that familiar balcony as our new spiritual shepherd.

Although Pope Leo was significantly formed in the Augustinian tradition, there is no doubt that he was first formed by a mother, who knew the way of St. Vincent de Paul, since she was an alumna of DePaul University.

It is also exciting that he chose the name Leo XIV, as he echoes the legacy of the last Leo who instituted Catholic Social Teaching. Often considered the “best kept secret in the Church,” we can only hope that this Leo will also shine light on the rights of workers, option for the poor and vulnerable, stewardship of creation, a spirit of solidarity, among other related components of human dignity.

To have this spiritual and political voice on the side of justice and inclusion for marginalized communities and for all God’s creation is critical for multilateralism and our specific ministry at the United Nations. In Pope Leo’s opening days, he has called for the end of armed conflicts and is offering to serve as a mediator between other political leaders. There is a sense of fresh air and hope in what could be, not by way of violence, but via dialogue and mutual listening and respect.

One must also wonder if Pope Leo’s election is in part to challenge the spirit of individualism of his home country, where the most vulnerable are often dismissed, forgotten, or removed, and where power is claimed by way of force and greed. Like St. Pope John Paul II’s impact during the rise of communism, what will be Leo’s impact as global politics near its boiling point, with the US adding heat by the day.

His recent tweets, as Cardinal, provide further insight into his critical views on how we treat immigrants and refugees in America, and given his many years in ministry in Peru, we can expect him to have a heart and love for the poor.

However, despite all of this, we should remain open to the unexpected. Pope Francis surprised us often, and in return, deepened our own relationship with God and others. How will Pope Leo guide us, not just as a political leader, but as a pastor?

With hope and gratitude, the Holy Spirit has clearly entered the scene by giving us a new faith leader to shepherd us forward. We pray that Pope Leo XIV will shed light on broken systems that cause injustice and our responsibility to transform them to improve the realities of the most vulnerable. We pray, formed by his Vincentian upbringing, Pope Leo will invite us to find Christ in the faces of those suffering, and to be challenged to claim our individual and communal role to answer his call with an astounding yes.

May God bless Pope Leo XIV and all who hear his words as he points us to the way of peace and unity in this time in human history.

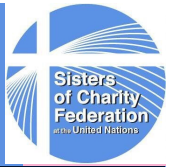


On April 22nd, I was fortunate to provide an intervention at the UN Headquarters in preparation for the World Social Summit. Representing the Federation, and as Chair of the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness, this was an urgent request to include homelessness in the political negotiations that will pave the way for the Summit this Fall in Qatar. You can read the intervention [here](#).

As a result of the intervention and our continued advocacy, homelessness was included in the zero-draft document following the intervention. However, the work has only intensified as we work closely with Member States and UN Habitat to secure that homelessness is significantly addressed. You can learn more about our advocacy priorities [here](#).

Related to this, we are looking forward to the bi-annual Secretary General Report on Homelessness which will be distributed this September. We are offering our input and hopes for this report.

New Publication



Preparing for WSS



Volume II BRIDGING VISION TO ACTION



The NGO Committee for Social Development has just launched: [Bridging Vision to Action Volume II.](#)

Thirty years after the Copenhagen Declaration, the promises of social development remain unfinished. This new volume dives into today's key UN and civil society documents, pertinently asking: Are we truly delivering on the commitments made in 1995?

The publication above offers a fresh analysis of global efforts since 2024, civil society's bold roadmap ahead of the Second World Summit for Social Development and calls to action on poverty, justice, care and inclusion. This publication is more than a review, it's a demand for action.

Earth Day Celebration



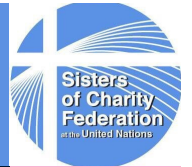
CRNGO Comes Together to Pray





The Committee of Religious NGOs (CRNGO) came together on April 30th in the Church Center's Tillman Chapel to pray for our planet. The celebration reflected various faith and cultural traditions, including song, rituals, and the planting of new life that will serve as a reminder of our responsibility for all creation.

Reach Out



Let's Stay Connected

For questions, feedback, article ideas, or story contributions, email JWalters@sistersofcharityfederation.org and we'll be in touch.

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