

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sisters of Charity – Halifax Celebrate Election of Pope Leo XIV

HALIFAX, NS – The Sisters of Charity – Halifax are rejoicing with the global Catholic community in the election of Pope Leo XIV, whose leadership and connection to the poor reflect the heart of the Sisters' mission. With a long-standing presence in Chiclayo, Peru, where Pope Leo XIV formerly served as Archbishop, the Sisters celebrate this moment with personal joy.

Sister Margaret Mary Fitzpatrick, Congregational Leader, who was in Rome during the Conclave, shared a message of hope as white smoke rose above the Vatican: "As this smoke rises to the heavens, may our contemplative prayers and active presence transform the world with hope. We are so happy to share with Pope Leo XIV a ministry with the people in Chiclayo."

The Sisters of Charity – Halifax have ministered in Peru for over 50 years, standing alongside communities in need. Sister Mary Anne Foster, who missioned in Peru, reflected on the deep affection the people of Chiclayo have for the new Pope: "Sister Martha Loo and I are spreading the word about our newly elected Pope Leo XIV. As the Archbishop of Chiclayo, he was very present to us, especially during our 50th Anniversary celebration in 2018. He is very encouraging of the laity to take their rightful place in the Church. He is a humble and very wise man. The people of Chiclayo loved him and were sorry to see him move to Rome. They are once again very excited."

Back home in Halifax, Sisters Jeanne Cottreau, Cecilia Hudec and Gabriela Vilella, who served in Peru and now reside at Caritas Residence, also celebrate this significant event. Their years of service in Latin America strengthen the Congregation's gratitude for a Pope whose roots are in the communities where they served. Archbishop Emeritus Martin Currie and Father Jim Richards also served in Chiclayo and maintain strong ties with the Sisters of Charity, united by years of shared ministry in the region.

From Nova Scotia to Rome, the Sisters of Charity – Halifax carry forward their mission of justice, compassion, and faithful presence. They look ahead with joyful anticipation to Pope Leo XIV's leadership and vision for a more inclusive, humble, and loving Church.

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