



Pope Leo XIV name becomes very significant at a time when Science and technology is at its peak with Chat GPT and AI dominating the world. When Pope Leo XIII was elected, he was challenged by industrial revolution which posed a great threat to the labourers, today the biggest challenge to humanity especially the workforce as Pope Leo XIV opines is the revolution in Artificial Intelligence. Hence, he has rightly adopted the name after Leo XIII to challenge the world which moves in the direction of artificial intelligence belittling human intelligence which is against the moral order of the Creator.

The demise of Pope Francis is still very deep in our memory; a prophet of our time and a protector of the poor and marginalized; a strong and firm voice against all ills and evils of the society, the epitome of justice, peace & reconciliation, protector of the mother earth, our common home (Laudato Si- On Care for our Common Home), and the advocate of universal brotherhood and sisterhood (Fratelli Tutti – All Brothers and Sisters), a visionary of a world without war has vanished from the earth.

We are at the same time consoled in the election of Pope Leo XIV, a man who we are sure, will walk in the path that Pope Francis strode. The very name he has adopted gives us the promise that he will walk in the way Pope Francis walked. His papal name, inspired by Pope Leo XIII, who introduced Catholic Social Teaching, a new approach of the Papacy to look at the world from its socio-political, economic and cultural milieu speaks of his future mission. Pope Leo XIII was the first Pope to look at the world and the church from below, the perspective of the poor and the marginalized. He was the first one to introduce in the Catholic Church, an encyclical on Social Teaching "Rerum Novarum" in 1891 which addressed the social and economic conditions of the working class during the Industrial Revolution, particularly the issues of capital and labour. For the first time, a Pope who spoke about the poor and the marginalized as industrial revolution sky scrapped and also slums. He sided with the poor, not kings. While there was a serious question 'could the church survive the modern age?', Pope Leo XIII responded through his encyclical which equally shocked the world when he condemned capitalism, communism and godlessness and demanded fair wages and right to form unions which brought hope and solace in the life of the industrial workers. In the same line, Pope Leo XIV even as a cardinal, emphasized synodality, missionary dialogue, and engagement with contemporary social and technological challenges. We are happy that Pope Leo XIV has chosen this name.

His name becomes very significant at a time when Science and technology is at its peak with Chat GPT and AI dominating the world. When Pope Leo XIII was elected, he was challenged by industrial revolution which posed a great threat to the labourers; today the biggest challenge to humanity especially the workforce as Pope Leo XIV opines is the revolution in Artificial Intelligence. Hence, he has rightly adopted the name after Leo XIII to challenge the world which moves in the direction of artificial intelligence belittling human intelligence which is against the moral order of the Creator.

The College of Cardinals need to be thanked for electing a person like Pope Leo. Like Pope Francis, he also comes from a religious congregation (Augustinian, a catholic Religious Order), and with huge Latin American experience which, according to me is the signs of the time, the Kairos moment. Pope Leo has spent nearly 20 years as a missionary in Peru. He worked as a parish priest, teacher and later became the bishop. His extensive travel to many poorer countries in the world as the Superior General of the Congregation and his encounter with world cultures, religions, economic, political and social mix of different worlds are his strength to lead the world.

His track record shows that he will be a great pope in line with Pope Francis.

Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ
Director

RECENT EVENT

Peace & Reconciliation Unit - JCSA Peace and Reconciliation Annual Meet 2024

The Peace and Reconciliation Unit of ISI Bangalore hosted the JCSA Peace and Reconciliation Network Annual Meet 2024 on 11-13 October 2024. The major theme of the meeting was "Jesuit Imagination of Peace and Reconciliation in South Asia." The Peace and Reconciliation Network Persons of the Provinces attended the meeting.

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SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY - "Learning Democracy, Rights and PESA Act—A Journey for Tribal Youth"

The Indian Social Institute - Bengaluru conducted a three-day Democracy and Citizenship training that had a big impact on 45 young trainees on November 15th till 17th, 2024 in Adilabad. They learned about democracy, their rights, and their duties as citizens. They also learned about civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights. The training used talks, discussions, videos, and activities to help them learn.

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SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY - Democracy & Citizenship

The training capacitated the youth about the importance of Citizenship and the Rights. It was very good start to 38 youth (Male 21 & 17 Female) who joined the Basic Module 2, 'Democracy & Citizenship' to know about their Human Rights and the Fundamental Rights. The youth are empowered to become responsible and committed citizens of our country.

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SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY - Dr. Ambedkar's Legacy driving us to be Leaders for Social Change

Capacity Building Training for Rural Youths – The three days training program was conducted on Self and Society in Karaikal-Puducherry zone with the great support of Indian Social Institute-Bengaluru. In this training 29 young people participated, got a great knowledge of understanding oneself and society. This training pushed the youth to move forward to be responsible citizens of the society.

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SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DEMOCRACY - Voting Right is key to strengthening Democracy

The Basic Module II: Democracy and Citizenship training program was successfully conducted with the participation of 41 enthusiastic youth. The primary focus of the module was to enhance participants understanding of the concepts of democracy and citizenship while building on foundational knowledge imparted in Module I: Self and Society. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the Indian Constitution and the fundamental principles of democracy mainly, Justice, Equality Liberty and Fraternity.

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LABOUR MIGRATION - Migrant Leaders Meet at ISI Bangalore

The Labour Migration Unit of Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bangalore, successfully organized a **Migrant Leaders Meet on Sunday, 19th January 2025**, at its premises. The event saw the participation of **84 migrant leaders** from various locations, who came together to share their challenges, experiences, and opportunities, creating a unified platform for addressing migrant-related issues.

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LABOUR MIGRATION - Substance Abuse Among Migrant Construction Workers

On 4th March 2025, the Labour Migration Unit of the Indian Social Institute (ISI), Bengaluru, in collaboration with Max Innovation and Solution, organized an awareness session on substance abuse for building construction migrant workers at Shriram Property Company, Bommasandra, Bengaluru. The session aimed to educate workers about the harmful effects of substance abuse and ways to overcome it.

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