



The President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Renzo Pegoraro, appointed bishop

Today, March 25, the appointment by Pope Leo XIV. Gratitude to the Pontiff: “I feel an even greater urgency in the responsibility to bear witness,” states Monsignor Pegoraro, “to how much the Christian faith means love for life, for its care, and for its full realization. I renew my commitment to the service of the whole Church and of every man and woman in this world, especially the most vulnerable.”



From Vatican News

Pope Leo XIV today, March 25, appointed Monsignor Renzo Pegoraro, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, as Titular Bishop of Gabi, granting him the personal title of Archbishop. The announcement was made in a bulletin from the Holy See Press Office.

In a statement, Pegoraro—who has led the Pontifical Academy for Life since May 2025—expressed his “surprise and gratitude” for the news and thanked the Pope “for the trust” shown in him and “for the thoughtful consideration and attention” given to the Academy, in its service to the Holy See. “In the city and Church of Padua, where I was born, I became both a physician and a priest, and the Lord guided me to learn how to care for wounded humanity in body and soul. In my service to the Holy See, first as Chancellor and then as President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, these words have appeared ever more clearly as a lamp for my steps, a light on my path (Psalm 119),” Monsignor Pegoraro writes. “Now, as a bishop, I feel an even greater urgency in the responsibility to bear

witness to how much the Christian faith means love for life, for its care, and for its full realization.”

The new bishop also quotes Pope Francis, who “reminded us that human life is often threatened by indifference, by violence and wars, and by unjust inequalities.” As a bishop, he therefore renews his readiness and commitment “to the service of the Gospel, of the whole Church, and of every man and woman in this world, especially the most vulnerable and those most at risk.”



PONTIFICIA ACADEMIA
PRO VITA

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It was with surprise and gratitude to the Lord that I received, as President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, the news of my appointment as bishop. I thank the Holy Father Leo XIV for the trust he has placed in me and for the thoughtful consideration and care he shows towards this Academy, which is at his service and that of the Holy See. At this important moment in my priestly life, I am reminded of what Jesus says in the Gospel of John: *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (Jn 10)*. These are words that have always accompanied my life. In the city and Church of Padua, of which I am a son, I became a doctor and a priest, and the Lord guided me to learn how to care for humanity wounded in body and soul. In my service to the Holy See, first as Chancellor and then as President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, these words have appeared ever more clearly as *“a lamp to my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119)*. Now, as a bishop, I feel that the responsibility to bear witness to how the Christian faith means love for life, for its care and for its full realisation, has become even more urgent. We are all in the same service of that God of life who *“will not break the bruised reed or quench the smouldering wick” (Is. 42:3)*.

Pope Francis recalled that human life is often threatened by an indifferent gaze, by violence and wars, by unjust inequalities. As a bishop, I renew my willingness and my commitment to the service of the Gospel, of the whole Church, of every man and woman in this world, especially the most vulnerable and threatened.

I would like to make these words of Leo XIV my own, with gratitude, so that they may guide the path before me: *“There is a widespread sickness in the world: the lack of confidence in life. It is as if we have resigned ourselves ... Life risks no longer representing a gift, but an unknown, almost a threat from which to protect ourselves so as not to end up disappointed. For this reason, the courage to live and to generate life, to bear witness that God is the quintessential ‘lover of life’, is today a more urgent call than ever” (Leo XIV, General Audience, 26 November 2025)*.

I thank all the academics, members of the Pontifical Academy for Life, for their closeness and their prayers, as we commit ourselves to continuing together on the path of study, dialogue and service to life.

Mons. Renzo Pegoraro

President of the Pontifical Academy for Life

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