



Pearls of Wisdom

OPC Past President Linda Squarzolo

What a whirlwind the last few weeks have been for us Catholics!

When I awoke early Easter Monday morning, it was shocking to read in the news that our beloved Pope Francis had died. Throughout his papacy, his messages appealed to me: world peace, dignity for migrants and care for the environment. He brought out the best in me and pushed me to wanting to “Make a Difference”.

Following his funeral, the cardinals gathered in conclave to select his successor. Everyone waited to see who would be chosen. Cardinal Robert Prevost was elected and he adopted the name Pope Leo XIV. Since then, I have been following news stories about the new pope and researching why he chose the name “Leo”.

The previous pope, with the name Leo, was Pope Leo XIII who was the head of the Church from 1878 to 1903, a period of great social change. He was known for writing the Prayer to St. Michael, his eleven encyclicals on the Rosary and his promotion of Catholic social teaching.



In his document “Rerum Novarum” in 1891, he promoted the dignity of the human person, the right of workers to earn a living wage, the right to form unions and that workers provide decent and honourable labour to their employers. Social justice is one of the pillars of the Catholic Women’s League.



One of the things that impressed me about Pope Leo XIV was that in the second day of his papacy, he travelled to the town of Genazzano, about 40 km from Rome. Here he prayed before a small fresco of Mary holding the Infant Jesus. We know this image as “Our Lady of Good Counsel”, the patroness of the Catholic Women’s League. Not only is this a symbol of our beloved League, this ancient image is also dear to Augustinians and loved by Pope Leo XIII. Isn’t that a special connection?

As the new era in the Church unfolds, we can look forward to the leadership of our new pope and in his guidance to the Catholics throughout the world.



Leo P.P. XIV