

## Office of the Bishop

*Diocese of Brooklyn*

310 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

April 15, 2026

Dear Friends,

From the beginning of his pontificate, which began nearly a year ago, our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has spoken consistently a message of peace, respect for all human life, and dignity of all people. Taking on the role of St. Peter, he is bold, joyful, and unapologetic in the proclamation of the Gospel. As I am writing this, the Pope's current apostolic voyage to Africa is, itself, primarily a mission of peace.

The Holy Father speaks not as a politician, but as a pastor, as one who seeks not to win arguments, but rather to heal wounds. He promotes the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not a political agenda.

Pope Leo's unwavering commitment to promoting peace and dignity for all people is truly inspiring. His actions and words serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of dialogue and compassion in a world that often faces conflict and division. The invitation to unite in prayer reflects a profound trust in the power of community and spiritual solidarity to bring about positive change.

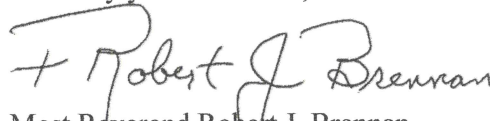
Speaking to journalists on his way to Africa he said, "I continue to speak strongly against war, seeking to promote peace, dialogue and multilateralism among states to find solutions to problems. Too many people are suffering today, too many innocent lives have been lost, and I believe someone must stand up and say there is a better way." He continued, "I say this to all world leaders, not only to him, [President Trump]: let us end wars and promote peace and reconciliation."

Recall Pope Leo's very first words spoken on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica: "Peace be with you." Those were Jesus' first words to the Apostles after his resurrection. This call for peace shapes his service as the successor of Saint Peter, the leader of Catholics throughout the world. But the Holy Father speaks not only with words, but with the witness of his life as a missionary. As pastor of the Universal Church, his message should be heard and respected.

On the Saturday after Easter, the Holy Father invited the faithful across the globe to join him in praying the Rosary with the intention of peace. He noted many conflicts around the world and called on all leaders of nations to work for peace.

As Catholics, and following his example, our response is to unite in prayer and seek to heal wounds. In his name, I invite the Church in Brooklyn and Queens to offer a special intention for peace on Sunday, April 26, 2026. I will pray the Rosary at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph at 10:30AM, before the 11:00AM Diocesan Pro Vita (Respect Life) Mass. I welcome you most heartily to join us in person or through NET TV, on that day or at least to offer some special prayer in solidarity with our Holy Father.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan  
Bishop of Brooklyn