

Here's How the News Networks Covered the Election of Pope Leo XIV

White smoke emerged from the Vatican's Sistine Chapel chimney on Thursday afternoon, indicating that a new Pope had been elected.

Cardinal **Robert Prevost** of Chicago will become Pope **Leo XIV**, the first American-born pontiff.

Breaking: The new pope is revealed as Robert Prevost of the US, the first American pontiff in history. He'll be known as Pope Leo XIV.

Live updates <https://t.co/lh0DebwnVqpic.twitter.com/dqK0eV62lL>

– CNN International PR (@cnnipr) May 8, 2025

The various news outlets have provided continuous coverage of the papal Conclave since it started on Wednesday. The election process produced two periods of black smoke—indicating that no winner had emerged—with Prevost being selected on the third round vote.

Pope Leo succeeded Pope **Francis**, who passed away on Easter Monday, after serving as head of the Catholic Church for over eight years. The news networks provided extensive coverage Francis' funeral, which took place on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Here is how the various networks covered the Conclave and the

election of Pope Leo XIV. (All times Eastern)

ABC News

ABC World News Tonight's **David Muir** has been anchoring live from the Vatican since Wednesday, joined by anchor **Linsey Davis**, chief international correspondent **James Longman**, senior national correspondent **Terry Moran**, foreign correspondent **Maggie Rulli**, reporters **Ines de La Cuetara** and **Patrick Revell**, WABC-TV's **Joe Torres**, WLS-TV's **Liz Nagy**, and contributors Father **Jim Martin**, Father **John Wauck**, and **Helen Alvaré**. ABC News broke in with a special report at 12:08:25 p.m. and stayed on until 2 p.m., all the way through the first Papal address.

CBS News

Norah O'Donnell, **Tony Dokoupil**, **Maurice DuBois**, **Seth Doane**, and **Chris Livesay** have been offering live reports from Rome. Additional insights have been provided by Vatican analyst **Delia Gallagher**, Father **Anthony Figueiredo**, and **John Allen**, editor of *Crux*. The network broke in with a special report at 12:07:53 when white smoke was seen at the Sistine Chapel.

CNN

Erin Burnett has been co-anchoring live coverage from Rome, joined by CNN Vatican Correspondent **Christopher Lamb**. CNN Senior International correspondent **Ben Wedeman** and senior national correspondent **David Culver** have been reporting live from the crowds gathered at St. Peter's Square. CNN en Español's **Jose Levy**, **Rafael Romo**, and journalist **Barbie Nadeau** are also in Rome reporting across the network's platforms.

Fox News

Senior correspondent Benjamin Hall has been anchoring live coverage with reporting from chief religion correspondent **Lauren Green**, correspondent **Alex Hogan**, and contributor

Jonathan Morris. Additionally, FOX News Radio reporter **Jonathan Savage** has been reporting live from Rome.

MSNBC

MSNBC has maintained a YouTube livestream of the Vatican chimney for the duration of the Conclave. Additionally, anchor **Chris Jansing** provided continuous coverage for the network.

NBC News

NBC Nightly News anchor **Lester Holt** has been on the ground since Tuesday, joined by **Anne Thompson**, **Molly Hunter**, and NBC News senior Vatican analyst **George Weigel**. Also joining in for NBC News coverage are **Kathleen Sprows Cummings**, NBC News Contributor and Notre Dame Professor of American Studies, **Christopher White**, National Catholic Reporter Vatican Correspondent, Bishop **Robert Barron**, Father **John Bartunek**, and **Joe Donnelly**, former senator and former ambassador to the Holy See. Holt anchored a special report at 12:09 p.m. on NBC News with news of Pope Leo's ascension.

NewsNation

National correspondent **Robert Sherman** has been reporting live from St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, with additional contributions from EWTN reporter **Colm Flynn**, **Ines San Martin** of Pontifical Mission Societies, and Bishop **David O'Connell** of Catholic University.

Scripps News

Correspondent **Joe St. George** has been in Rome providing live updates and content throughout the Conclave. Correspondent **Maya Rodriguez** offered reports from the National Basilica in Washington, D.C., and **Alex Miller** was stationed at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Scripps News will air an hourlong special on the new Pope beginning at 5 p.m. tonight.

Spectrum News

Spectrum News+ coverage was hosted by anchors **Josh Robin** and **Bree Driscoll**, alongside Spectrum News D.C. bureau reporter **Kevin Frey**. Coverage also included analysis and context from University of Scranton vice president of Mission and Ministry **Daniel Cosacchi**, and Reverend **Patrick Flanagan**, C.M., associate professor at St. John's University. Spectrum Noticias' coverage was hosted by anchor **Patsi Arias**, alongside reporter **Will Mendoza** as well as analysts Father **Hernan Paredes** and Father **Cesar Jaramillo**, who was live from the Vatican.

Noticias Telemundo

Julio Vaqueiro has been anchoring special coverage from Vatican City, joined by **Damià Bonmatí**. Conclave coverage is airing on the Telemundo network and streaming on Noticias Telemundo Ahora.

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