

On May 8, 2025, after white smoke billowed from a chimney atop the Sistine Chapel, announcing a new leader for the Catholic Church, Cardinal Dominique Mamberti stepped out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and shared news that surprised the world.

For the first time, the College of Cardinals had elected a pope from the United States of America.

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost had been a dark horse candidate to say the least—an unassuming Augustinian who had only recently been promoted to the top levels of Church leadership. His elevation to the most prominent religious seat in the world prompted unprecedented excitement and curiosity—but despite international media coverage and fascination, the full scope and detail of Prevost's life, from childhood to that fateful day in St. Peter's Square, has largely remained unexplored.

Now, in *American Pope*, Daniel Burke and Scott Detrow offer an intimate look at his extraordinary journey: from Robert, a quiet young boy in working-class Chicago, coming into his faith; to Bob, a serious student who writes for his high school paper, attends Villanova University, and spends time in the seminary leading family interventions for alcoholics; to Padre and Monsignor Roberto, a stabilizing and hopeful presence in impoverished and terrorized communities of Peru; to Father Bob, the leader of the Augustinian order at a time of crisis; to Cardinal Prevost, the unpretentious ally of Pope Francis; and, finally, to Leo, whose ascension will forever change the Church he serves and loves.

Featuring new and exclusive interviews with Leo's close confidants, childhood friends, family, classmates, fellow clergy, and Vatican insiders, and information sourced from archival documents, letters, emails, and other personal correspondence that provide key insights into Prevost's experiences and views, *American Pope* is an enlightening, engrossing, and undeniably human look at one of the most consequential figures of our time.

DANIEL BURKE is the Senior Editor of Religion & Spirituality at NPR. His writing on religion has won numerous awards, including from the Society for Features Journalism, the National Headliner Awards, the Religion News Association, and the American Academy of Religion. He holds degrees in religion from Georgetown University and Columbia University.

SCOTT DETROW cohosts NPR's *All Things Considered*, which he broadcast from St. Peter's Square during the conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV. He previously worked as NPR's White House correspondent, among other beats, and hosted *The NPR Politics Podcast*. Detrow is a graduate of Fordham University and the University of Pennsylvania and lives in Washington, D.C.

READ BY SCOTT DETROW



Runtime: 10h. 47m. • Unabridged

© 2026 Daniel Burke and Scott Detrow © 2026 by Macmillan Audio, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. Jacket design by Claire Sullivan. Front jacket photograph © Midwest Augustinians. Back jacket photograph © Fabrizio Maffei / Shutterstock. www.macmillanaudio.com

playaway
PRODUCTS

© 2026 Playaway. Patented.
All rights reserved.
31999 Aurora Road, Solon, OH 44139 USA
Designed in Ohio. Made in China.
www.playaway.com

The Playaway format is recommended for children ages 5 and up.

47849
ISBN 978-1-250-50755-6



9 781250 507556



AUDIO

AMERICAN POPE

LEO XIV'S
ROAD from the
SOUTH SIDE
of CHICAGO
to VATICAN
CITY

DANIEL BURKE AND
SCOTT DETROW

Adult



PLAYAWAY
THE ALL-IN-ONE AUDIOBOOK

