

Pope Leo Teaches Universal Salvation

Commentary for June 1, 2026 — ... as Did the Past Three Popes

Just as the prior three Popes of the Roman Catholic Church: John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis, the current Pope Leo XIV since his May 2025 election to the papacy has publicly, but subtly, taught a religious doctrine of universal salvation of all mankind.

In 2010 I wrote "[Modern Recognition of Universal Salvation](#)." This article gives background to the doctrines Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI learned during and after the Vatican II Council of 1962–1965. Among many changes, one Vatican II reform promoted teaching "[universal salvation](#)" with a strong [biblical perspective](#) to new priests. Pope Benedict ensured that seminary students were taught a [Catholic](#) understanding of universal salvation.

Criticism was levelled at Pope Francis (March 2013–2025) from a 2022 article by Ludwig Ott, Ph.D., in the Catholic conservative *Boston Catholic Journal*: "[Francis and the Heresy of Universal Salvation: No One in Outer Darkness ... No Matter What Christ Taught!](#)."

Apostolic Exhortation:

["Evangelii Gaudium of The Holy Father FRANCIS to The Bishops, Clergy, Consecrated Persons and The Lay Faithful On The Proclamation of The Gospel In Today's World"](#)

I quote a portion of the *Evangelii Gaudium* ...

181. "The kingdom, already present and growing in our midst, engages us at every level of our being and reminds us of the principle of discernment which Pope Paul VI applied to true development: it must be directed to all men and the whole man.

We know that 'evangelization would not be complete if it did not take account of the unceasing interplay of the Gospel and of man's concrete life, both personal and social.' This is the principle of universality intrinsic to the Gospel, for the Father desires the salvation of every man and woman, and his saving plan consists in 'gathering up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth' (Eph 1:10).

Our mandate is to 'go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation' (Mk 16:15), for 'the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God' (Rom 8:19).

Here, 'the creation' refers to every aspect of human life; consequently, 'the mission of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ has a universal destination. Its mandate of charity encompasses all dimensions of existence, all individuals, all areas of community life, and all peoples. Nothing human can be alien to it.' True Christian hope, which seeks the eschatological kingdom, always generates history."

As did John Paul II, Benedict, and Francis promoted universal salvation, Leo will do the same.

Pope Leo XIV "Hints" at Universal Salvation?

At present Leo seems cautious in his teaching, but his official writings indicate he accepts universal salvation. His teaching was challenged by a conservative Catholic publication in a November 2025 article "[Pope Declares: No One Is Going to Hell—Everyone Will Be Saved.](#)"

"On Sunday, November 2, 2025, Pope Leo XIV led the Angelus prayer at the Vatican on the occasion of All Souls' Day, the liturgical feast dedicated to remembering those who have died and are in purgatory.

In his message, the Pope told the crowd that while they pray for those "departed souls" still being purified, they can be confident that NO ONE WILL BE LOST and that, through God's mercy, EVERYONE WILL EVENTUALLY BE SAVED and reach Heaven.

Once again, Pope Leo XIV's words present a sad reflection that contradicts Sacred Scripture, asserting that we can have a second chance at salvation after death, even if we reject the Gospel invitation in this life."

At a later Jubilee event on November 12, 2025, at St. Peter's Square in Rome, Leo said the following ("[Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025: Jesus Christ Our Hope. IV. The Resurrection of Christ and the Challenges of the Contemporary World](#)").

"That *"tutti"* [an Italian musical term], EVERYONE, which meant for Saint Francis [of Assisi] the welcoming sign of a UNIVERSAL FRATERNITY, expresses an essential feature of Christianity, which ever since the beginning has been the proclamation of the good news DESTINED FOR THE SALVATION OF ALL, never in an exclusive or private form. This fraternity is based on Jesus' commandment, which is new insofar as He accomplished it Himself, the superabundant fulfilment OF THE WILL OF THE FATHER¹: thanks to Him, who loved us and gave Himself for us, we can in turn love one another and give our lives for others, as children of the one Father and true brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. ...

His Resurrection, on the third day, is the beginning of a new history. And the disciples become fully brothers and sisters, after so much time of life spent together, not only when they live through the pain of the death of Jesus, but above all, when they recognize Him as the Risen One, receive the gift of the Spirit and become witnesses to Him.

These are more than STRONG "hints." The four Catholic popes all teach a form of "universal salvation." But they also say that ALL people will come through the offices of the Catholic Church. This is where Catholic teaching differs from Biblical teaching.

Here are other articles on universal reconciliation:

["The Recognition of Universal Reconciliation Part 1"](#)

["The Recognition of Universal Reconciliation Part 2"](#)

["The Recognition of Universal Reconciliation Part 3"](#)

See also ...

["The Death of Death"](#)

["Pope John Paul II Is in Hell"](#)

Read my 2010 article: "[Modern Recognition of Universal Reconciliation](#)" above. It discusses more about the turn of Roman Catholic doctrine to universal salvation.

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¹ See Ephesians 1:11 and 1 Timothy 2:4–6.