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CTU Alumnus Named a Cardinal by Pope Francis

July 14, 2023 – Chicago. On July 9, Pope Francis named Bishop Robert Francis Prevost, OSA a Cardinal. Just this past January, the Holy Father selected Bishop Prevost to be Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. Bishop Prevost is a 1982 graduate of Catholic Theological Union.

Before coming to CTU, Bishop Prevost studied at Villanova University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics in 1977. He joined the Augustinians that same year, and then came to CTU to earn an MDiv degree after professing his solemn vows. He went on to earn a doctoral degree in canon law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

Bishop Prevost began his missionary service to Peru in 1985 and has served in numerous capacities. He returned to the United States from 1999-2014 to serve as Provincial of the Augustinian Province in Chicago and then as Prior General of the Augustinians. He returned to Peru as Bishop of Chiclayo in 2015, where he ministered until his selection to head the Dicastery for Bishops.

“We are delighted at the news of Pope Francis' naming Bishop Robert Prevost, OSA as a Cardinal,” said President Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, “As the first CTU alumnus to be named a Cardinal, we join with our corporate members, the Midwest Augustinians, and all members of the CTU community in celebrating this prestigious appointment. Cardinal-designate Prevost brings to the College of Cardinals the heart of a missionary and years of ministerial experience ranging from academic classrooms to poor barrios to the upper echelons of administration. He embodies the Gospel call to be ready to serve wherever the Spirit leads. We assure him of the continued prayers and admiration from the extended CTU community in his hometown of Chicago and from across the globe.”

Archbishop Prevost is one of 21 newly named cardinals, including the Vatican's ambassador to the US, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, whom CTU honored with our *Blessed Are the Peacemakers Award* in 2018. The ceremony officially creating the new Cardinals is scheduled for September, and President Reid will attend as part of a delegation from CTU and the Midwest Augustinians.

About Catholic Theological Union

Catholic Theological Union is a Roman Catholic graduate school of theology and ministry located in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. CTU shares alliances with De Paul University, Dominican University and the University of Chicago. Its mission is to prepare effective leaders for the Church, ready to witness to Christ's good news of justice, love, and peace. More than 4,500 CTU alumni, vowed religious and lay women and men, have gone on to minister in 60 countries worldwide. CTU was founded in 1968, following the Second Vatican Council, during a time of dramatic renewal in the Catholic Church. Fifty years later, CTU has evolved into a premier school of theology and ministry, sponsored by twenty-four men's religious communities and enjoys a global reputation for academic and pastoral excellence.