

# Pope Leo hosts exorcist summit at the Vatican over fears of worldwide surge in Satanism

By Anthony Blair

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Pope Leo XIV hosted the world's most senior exorcists at the Vatican, who reportedly warned him of a terrifying global rise in "occultism, esotericism, and Satanism."

The Chicago-born head of the Catholic church held a private meeting with a delegation of Catholic priests from the International Association of Exorcists (AIE) this month, according to EWTN Vatican.

"They presented a report on the growing prevalence of cases related to occultism, esotericism, and Satanism, and the spiritual consequences they believe this has for many people," the outlet reported.



Pope Leo hosted a delegation of leading exorcists at the Vatican this month.

"During the meeting, the Association asked the Pontiff to ensure that every diocese in the world has one or more adequately trained exorcist priests."

Father Francesco Bamonte, AIE vice president, said ignoring these concerns "leaves many faithful without an adequate response to grave spiritual suffering, sometimes pushing them toward inappropriate solutions."

“During the audience, the Pope was also presented with the book Guidelines for the Ministry of Exorcism, along with an image of Saint Michael the Archangel from the sanctuary of Monte Sant’Angelo,” EWTN Vatican reported.

The powwow with the pope was held on March 13, but was first reported on Monday (March 25, 2026).

Leo, 70, has previously acknowledged the work of trained Catholic exorcists as “delicate” yet “most necessary,” by encouraging priests “to live it both as a ministry of liberation and of consolation, accompanying the faithful truly possessed by the evil one with prayer and the invocation of Christ’s effective presence,” LA Mag reported.

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## The Pope Took A Meeting With Catholic Exorcists At Vatican

The Pontiff met with the International Association of Exorcists, who inspired the Russell Crowe movie “The Pope’s Exorcist,” this month about terrifying rise in Satanism

LA Mag by Michele McPhee



The Pontiff was asked to send "one or more adequately trained exorcist priests" to every diocese;

Pope Leo XIV took a private meeting at the Vatican with a delegation of Catholic priests from the [International Association of Exorcists](#), who warned the Pontiff of a terrifying rise in “occultism, esotericism, and Satanism” that should prompt an uptick in exorcism priests at every diocese in the world.

The delegation is headquartered in Rome and was founded by French exorcist, Father Rene Chenessau and Father Gabriele Amorth, an Italian. The priests are internationally revered by Catholics for their work dispelling demon.

The delegation is now led by Monsignor Karel Orlita and Father Francesco Bamonte, a member of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Catholic exorcists said in a statement that they discussed “the painful and increasingly widespread situation of people seriously disturbed by the extraordinary action of the devil as a result of frequenting occult sects,” with the Pope.

They requested that the Pope add “at least one or more,” trained exorcists to every diocese as a way to battle what they called “the great suffering that the extraordinary action of the devil entails for those who suffer it and the Church’s commitment to eliminate or at least to alleviate, in the name of Christ, this suffering, through the sacramental of exorcism.”

At the end of the meeting, according to the Vatican, Monsignor Orlita and Father Bamonte gave the Pope a metal image of Saint Michael the Archangel from the sanctuary of Monte Sant’Angelo, in the Gargano, as well as two copies—in Italian and in English—of the book *Líneas.guía.para.el.ministerio.del.exorcismo*, published by the association in 2019.

Pope Leo has acknowledged the work of trained Catholic exorcists “delicate” yet “most necessary,” encouraging priests “to live it both as a ministry of liberation and of consolation, accompanying the faithful truly possessed by the evil one with prayer and the invocation of Christ’s effective presence.”