

Pope Leo Calls for Global Peace at Iznik Ceremony



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During his official visit to Türkiye, Pope Leo XIV travelled to the historic city of Iznik on Friday to attend a special commemoration marking the anniversary of a landmark Christian council. The visit followed a series of meetings earlier in Ankara and Istanbul, reflecting the pontiff's wider regional engagement.

Speaking at the ceremony, Pope Leo described the anniversary as a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the enduring influence of the council in shaping Christian thought. He stressed that its legacy continues to guide believers toward unity, compassion and mutual respect.

In his address, the pope warned that today's world remains deeply affected by violence, conflict and division. He emphasized that people across all regions are yearning for peace and reconciliation, stating firmly that religion must never be misused to justify war, hatred or any form of extremism.

Pope Leo expressed appreciation to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for initiating the commemoration and highlighted the importance of strengthening interfaith dialogue. He noted that cooperation among religious leaders is essential for promoting stability and understanding. Following the program in Iznik, the pontiff was scheduled to return to Istanbul before departing for Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, on Sunday, as part of his continued regional tour.