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**STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PÉREZ SUPPORTING  
POPE LEO XIV AND HIS CONTINUED CALLS FOR PEACE**

Pope Leo XIV has consistently spoken with clarity and compassion with calls for peaceful resolutions to complex challenges in a manner that upholds the sanctity and dignity of all human life as our world continues to be afflicted with division, conflict, and suffering. Both the Holy Father and his message deserve respect and admiration.

As a pastoral and world leader, Pope Leo XIV is a gift for Catholics and all people of good will. His message powerfully reflects the truth of the Gospel.

While many expect political messages from the Vicar of Christ, it is his role to preach the Gospel of peace and the role of political leaders to secure the most efficient end to world conflict and division.

His continued calls for peace, hope, diplomacy, and the conversion of hearts should be heeded by all. The Church of Philadelphia stands by the Holy Father as he continues to call and pray for world peace as he has done since the beginning of his pontificate.

*Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia*