



Dearest members of the academic community, esteemed colleagues, dear students,

It is with profound emotion and great joy that I address you at this historic moment for the universal Church: the election of the Holy Father Leo XIV to the Pontifical Throne. This event invites us to reflect on the profound meaning of the Petrine ministry in the life of the Church and on our commitment as a pontifical academic institution.

The Papacy represents the visible principle of unity of the Catholic Church. The Successor of Peter is called to strengthen his brothers in faith (Lk 22:32) and to be the visible foundation on which Christ builds his Church (Mt 16:18). This ministry of communion, which spans the centuries, guarantees the continuity of the mission entrusted by Christ to the Apostles and allows the Gospel to resonate in every age with fidelity and freshness.

As the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, we are particularly sensitive to this ecclesial dimension. In our foundational principles, the ecclesial sense occupies a place of primary importance: “As a pontifical academic institution, the APRA is part of the community of believers in Christ who professes and promotes the Catholic faith and recognizes in the living Magisterium the authentic interpreter of the <sup>1</sup> Word of God written or transmitted, having it as a certain and secure point of reference in all that concerns faith and morals.”

**ATENEO PONTIFICIO REGINA APOSTOLORUM**

Via degli Aldobrandeschi, 190 - 00163 Roma - Tel. (+39) 06.916891 - [info@upra.org](mailto:info@upra.org) - [www.upra.org](http://www.upra.org)



This fidelity to the Magisterium is not a limit to academic research, but rather constitutes the guarantee of its authenticity and fruitfulness. The election of a new Pontiff is therefore for us a moment of renewed awareness of our vocation to serve the Church through the deepening and transmission of truth in charity.

At this particular moment, I wish to assure the Holy Father Leo XIV of our filial adherence and our support in prayer, entrusting his ministry to the protection of the Queen of Apostles, our heavenly patroness.

I invite the entire academic community to unite in a special prayer for the Holy Father and to renew our commitment to the educational and formative mission that has been entrusted to us, with enthusiasm and fidelity to the Church.

With my blessing,

Fr. José Enrique Oyarzún, L.C.

Rector

ATENEO PONTIFICIO REGINA APOSTOLORUM