



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

NEW VIDEO CLIP: Pope Leo XIV Receives 2026 National Constitution Center Liberty Medal at the Vatican Ahead of July 3 Address to American People

PHILADELPHIA, PA (June 10, 2026) — The National Constitution Center today released video from an April 30 Vatican ceremony in which His Holiness Pope Leo XIV received the 2026 Liberty Medal ahead of his upcoming virtual appearance at the public Liberty Medal ceremony on July 3.

Video clip available: [HERE](#)

Quote from Pope Leo XIV upon receiving the medal from National Constitution Center Interim President and CEO Vince Stango:

“I would just like to recall the words signed by the Founding Fathers of the nation 250 years ago in Philadelphia, in the Declaration of Independence, when they said that we hold these truths to be self-evident...that all men have received fundamental rights from our creator. And they include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. May those values continue to inspire us in the United States and throughout the world, and together hopefully we can all work that those freedoms will indeed be a part of the lives of all people everywhere.”

** Additional video footage of the Vatican ceremony to be shown at the July 3 public ceremony.

CEREMONY UPDATES

On July 3, the eve of the 250th anniversary of American independence, Pope Leo XIV will deliver live virtual remarks from the Vatican during a public ceremony at the National Constitution Center. The event will be livestreamed to audiences gathered on Independence Mall and online and will feature civic, interfaith, and community leaders reflecting on the enduring importance of religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

WHO:

- **His Holiness Pope Leo XIV**, virtual from the Vatican
- **Vince Stango**, Interim President and CEO, National Constitution Center
- **Imam Quaiser D. Abdullah, Ph.D.**, Director, Mayor’s Office of Muslim Engagement; Board Member, Interfaith Philadelphia
- **The Reverend Carolyn C. Cavaness**, Pastor, Mother Bethel AME Church; Board Member, Interfaith Philadelphia

- **The Reverend Luis A. Cortés Jr.**, Founder, President, CEO of Esperanza, Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia, Member of Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia
- **Rabbi Jill L. Maderer**, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Rodeph Shalom; Board Member, Interfaith Philadelphia
- **The Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.**, Archbishop of Philadelphia; Co-Convener, Religious Leaders Council, Interfaith Philadelphia
- **The Cathedral Basilica Choir and The Archdiocesan Choir of Philadelphia**
- Additional civic and community leaders to be announced

WHEN:

Friday, July 3, 2026
11 a.m. ET

WHERE:

National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

Livestreamed on [the Center's YouTube page](#). *The National Constitution Center grants media permission to use, excerpt, and rebroadcast the livestream footage for editorial purposes. Please provide attribution to the National Constitution Center with any use.*

RSVP: Credentials are required for press entry. Please send a request to pr@constitutioncenter.org by Wednesday, July 1.

IN-PERSON MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:

- Remarks from local civic and interfaith leaders
- Visuals of Liberty Medal ceremony on Independence Mall
- Public gathering on the eve of America's 250th anniversary
- Vince Stango, interim President and CEO of the Center, will be available for interviews

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About the Liberty Medal

The National Constitution Center's annual Liberty Medal honors men and women of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty for people around the globe. The 2026 Liberty Medal recognizes His Holiness Pope Leo XIV for advancing religious liberty and freedom of conscience and expression—fundamental freedoms protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. For more information, visit: constitutioncenter.org/about/liberty-medal