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Pope Leo XIV Erects Eldoret Metropolitan Province in Kenya and Appoints Bishop Joseph Obanyi Sagwe First Archbishop

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Pope Leo XIV has erected the new ecclesiastical province of Eldoret in Kenya, elevating the Diocese of Eldoret to a metropolitan archdiocese, and appointed Bishop Joseph Obanyi Sagwe as its first Metropolitan Archbishop"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Pope Leo XIV has erected the new ecclesiastical province of Eldoret in Kenya, elevating the Diocese of Eldoret to a metropolitan archdiocese, and appointed Bishop Joseph Obanyi Sagwe as its first Metropolitan Archbishop. The Vatican announced the decision on Saturday 14 November 2026, with the news released at 2:00 p.M. Kenyan time through the Apostolic Nunciature in Kenya. Eldoret now stands at the head of its own province, with four suffragan dioceses under its care.

For the Catholics of western Kenya, this is the kind of news that arrives once in a generation. A diocese they have watched grow for more than seventy years has been given a new standing in the Church, and the man chosen to lead it is no stranger. Sagwe has already been guiding Eldoret through its empty months, and now he has been given the staff in his own name.

Eldoret Metropolitan Archdiocese: What Pope Leo XIV Decided

The new province brings together five dioceses in the west of the country. The Metropolitan Archdiocese of Eldoret sits at its centre, and four suffragan dioceses now look to it: Lodwar, Kitale, Kericho and Kapsabet.

Three of them - Lodwar, Kitale and Kapsabet - previously belonged to the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Kisumu. Kericho belonged to the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Nairobi.

The change redraws the map of the Catholic Church in Kenya. Eldoret is no longer a suffragan answering to Kisumu. It is a metropolitan see in its own right, and its archbishop will carry the pallium and a share of responsibility for the whole province.

That matters where distance is not a small thing. Lodwar sits far to the north in Turkana, a long and hard journey from any metropolitan centre. Bringing the four dioceses under one roof in Eldoret puts the centre of gravity closer to the people it serves.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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