

Media information

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Topic A BMW R 18 Transcontinental for Pope Leo XIV. BMW Motorrad is supporting an extraordinary charity campaign.

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**A BMW R 18 Transcontinental for Pope Leo XIV. BMW
Motorrad is supporting an extraordinary charity campaign.**

Munich. On 3 September 2025, a specially modified BMW R 18 Transcontinental was presented to Pope Leo XIV. for his blessing and signature during a celebratory event at the Vatican. This R 18 Transcontinental bearing the Pope's signature will be auctioned by Missio Austria via Sotheby's in October 2025, with the proceeds going to children's aid projects in Madagascar.

The R 18 Transcontinental was donated by BMW Motorrad Deutschland and refined by BMW Motorrad dealer Witzel. Witzel and Thomas Draxler, founder of JESUS-BIKER®, initiated the idea to create an absolutely unique bike for the pope for a good cause. It was painted mother-of-pearl white and the coat of arms of the Vatican was affixed to it, among other modifications.

The unique motorcycle began its journey on 31 August 2025 with a 'Peace Ride' from Motorrad Witzel in Sennfeld to Rome, passing through Schaafheim, Altötting and Verona and accompanied by church services. Representatives of JESUS-BIKER®, BMW Motorrad and BMW Witzel joined the journey, mainly riding BMW R 18 motorcycles provided by BMW Motorrad Germany.

On Wednesday 3 September 2025, Markus Flasch, the CEO of BMW Motorrad and Michael Sommer, head of BMW Motorrad Germany, personally presented the motorcycle to the Pope for blessing and signing, after the general audience at the Vatican.

Markus Flasch sums it up: "What initially sounded more like a crazy idea has developed into a great charity campaign. I am happy that we at BMW Motorrad can support aid projects for children in

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Madagascar with our R18 Transcontinental. I would also like to thank Pope Leo XIV for taking the time to support this project."

This unique R 18 Transcontinental will be on display at BMW Welt in Munich from 15 September to 7 October 2025, until the auction.

You will find press material on BMW motorcycles in the BMW Group PressClub at www.press.bmwgroup.com.

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The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2024, the BMW Group sold over 2.45 million passenger vehicles and more than 210,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2024 was € 11.0 billion on revenues amounting to € 142.4 billion. As of 31 December 2024, the BMW Group had a workforce of 159,104 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. Sustainability, from the supply chain through production to the end-of-life phase of all products, is an important part of the BMW Group's corporate strategy.

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