



What's What

A weekly communication that provides an opportunity for our faith community to grow together in faith.

Papal Visit

From the very beginning, when Jesus chose St Peter and declared him to be the “rock” upon which he would build his Church, the pope has had a unique role in teaching, sanctifying and governing the Christian faithful. This has taken many different forms over the centuries and has developed into the practice we have today. The pope is the visible head of the Church and the source of unity among all the Christian faithful...

The pope exercises governance, or leadership, in the Church in several ways. One of the most visible ways he leads the Church is by appointing bishops to lead diocese throughout the world. He does this with the assistance of the Congregation for Bishops in Rome and with the help of his ambassadors, or nuncios, to various countries. Here in the US, the Apostolic Nunciature is located in Washington, D.C., in a part of the city where many other embassies are located. The pope also has an ambassador to the United Nations in New York...

The pope’s leadership in the Church also gives him the opportunity to visit the local Churches, or dioceses, throughout the world. That is the reason for Pope Benedict’s visit now. This was done in a very extensive way by Pope John Paul II. Before him, most popes remained in Rome and tended to the daily operation of the worldwide Church through their oversight of the congregations and dicasteries that assist with the governance of the Church. John Paul II changed that radically, in part due to the advances of modern

times and the availability and ease of world travel. But, it was also to show that the pope is the shepherd and leader of the entire Church throughout the world. There is no better way to do this than actually to travel to different parts of the world and be physically present to the people. That is what Pope Benedict hopes to achieve with his visit to our country: To show us, in person, that he is our leader and to pray with us.

The pope exercises his sanctifying function by celebrating the sacraments, which give people an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ in a real and personal way. That is why when the pope travels to another country he almost always celebrates Mass for the Christian faithful: to show that he is our spiritual leader and to lead us to Jesus Christ.

By celebrating Mass with us, the pope also highlights the fact that liturgy in the Roman Catholic Church is unified, even allowing for local customs. In every Catholic Church throughout the world on any given day one can hear the same readings and recite the same prayers, albeit in different languages. This speaks to the universality of the Church and to its unity, which is exemplified in the person of the pope. The pope also exercises his sanctifying role by praying with people in other forms than the Mass, as he often does at ecumenical gatherings. He blesses, or sanctifies, the “city of Rome and the world” (urbi et orbi) every Christmas and Easter with a blessing from the balcony of St Peter’s Basilica, the same balcony on which he appeared when he was intro-

duced to the world for the first time as pope. He imparts this same Apostolic Blessing upon all the Christian faithful who are physically present at his weekly audiences and at all Papal liturgies and all who, through the use of television, radio, and internet, hear his blessing.

Whenever the pope prays, whether he is celebrating Mass

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for thousands of people or praying privately in his chapel, he represents the communion of worship and unity of faith that is made real by the Church.

*“The Work of the Papacy Today”,
By Msgr. Charles Antonicelli*

Who is Pope Benedict XVI?

- 4/16/27 Joseph Ratzinger born in Marktl Inn, Bavaria
- 1943 At the age of 16, he and members of his seminary class are drafted into the German anti-aircraft corps
- 1945 Escapes from the army and returns to Traunstein. He is briefly held by American forces in a prisoner of war camp. After his release, he reenters the seminary.
- 1951 Ordained into priesthood
- 1953 Receives his doctorate in theology from the Univ. of Munich
- 1959 Begins lecturing as a professor of fundamental theology at the Univ. of Bonn
- 1962-1965 Participates in all 4 sessions of the Second Vatican Council
- 1977 Named Archbishop of Munich and Freising in March and elevated to Cardinal of Munich in June by Pope Paul VI
- 1981 Named Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith by Pope John Paul II
- 2002 Elected Dean of the College of Cardinals
- 4/19/05 Cardinal Ratzinger elected as the 265th pope and chooses the name Pope Benedict XVI.

Why is this visit important?

- The Pope signifies the visible unity of the Church and of the spiritual communion of all the faithful who are members of the Body of Christ.
- His visit will remind us of our union with others throughout the universal Church.
- As the chief shepherd of the Church, he is making a pastoral visit to us to show us that he loves and cares for us.

What will the pope do while he is here?

- Meet with the local Church
- Teach his people directly
- Celebrate the Eucharist
- Spread the message of Christ our Hope
- Meet with the President of the United States
- Meet with other Christian and non-Christian leaders
- Make a presentation to the world leaders through the United Nations
- Visit the site of the world Trade Center bombing on Sept 11, 2001



Saint in the Spotlight—St. Benedict Joseph (d. 1783)

This Thursday we celebrate the memorial of St Benedict Joseph.

Benedict Joseph Labre was truly eccentric, one of God's special little ones. Born in France and the eldest of 18 children, he studied under his uncle, a parish priest. Because of poor health and a lack of suitable academic preparation he was unsuccessful in his attempts to enter the religious life. Then, at 16 years of age, a profound change took place. Benedict lost his desire to study and gave up all thoughts of the priesthood, much to the consternation of his relatives.

He became a pilgrim, traveling from one great shrine to another, living off alms. He wore the rags of a beggar and shared his food with the poor. Filled with the love of God and neighbor, Benedict had special devotion to the Blessed Mother and to the Blessed Sacrament. In Rome, where he lived in the Colosseum for a time, he was called "the poor man of the Forty Hours Devotion" and "the beggar of Rome." The people accepted his ragged appearance better than he did. His excuse to himself was that "our comfort is not in this world."

On the last day of his life, April 16, 1783,

Benedict Joseph dragged himself to a church in Rome and prayed there for two hours before he collapsed, dying peacefully in a nearby house. Immediately after his death the people proclaimed him a saint.

He was officially proclaimed a saint by Pope Leo XIII at canonization ceremonies in 1883..

From: www.americancatholic.org/Features/SaintOfDay/

Pope Benedict XVI's Coat of Arms

For at least 800 years, each pope in our Church has had their own Coat of Arms. Popes have often used their family shield or created one using symbols of their ideal life or referring to experiences that happened to them.

Pope Benedict XVI's Coat of Arms was designed by then Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo (who later was created a Cardinal) soon after the papal election. It is different from other papal coat of arms in that it is topped with a pointed mitre instead of the traditional image of a three-tiered tiara. The mitre is silver and has three gold stripes to mirror the symbolism of the papal tiara's three tiers: order, jurisdiction, and magisterium. Pope Benedict also added the pallium, the woolen stole symbolizing a bishop's authority to his coat of arms. It is white with black crosses and represents the Pope's responsibility as Pastor of the flock entrusted to him by God.

What has not changed is the Holy See's insignia of two crossed keys, which symbolize the power Jesus gave to the apostle Peter and his successors. The gold key on the right represents the power in heaven and the silver key on the left indicates the spiri-

tual authority of the papacy on the earth. The cord that ties the two together represents the bond between the two powers. On top of the keys is the shield unique to Pope Benedict. It is based on his coat of arms as archbishop of Munich and Freising, Germany.

The shield has three sections, each with its own symbol. The main portion of the shield has a red background with a large gold shell on it. The shell refers to a legend in which St Augustine came across a boy by a shore who was scooping water from the sea and pouring it into a small hole he had dug into the sand. As Augustine thought about the boy's activity it struck him how similar it was to the limited human mind trying to understand the infinite mystery of the divine.

The upper left-hand section has an image of a brown-faced Moor with red



lips, crown and collar and is the symbol of the Diocese of Freising. It is unknown why the Moor came to represent Freising, the pope said for him, "it is an expression of the universality of the church which knows no distinctions of race or class since all are one in Christ."

The upper right-hand section of the shield depicts a brown bear with a loaded pack on

his back. The bear is part of an old Bavarian legend about the first bishop and patron saint of the Diocese of Freising, St Corbinian. According to this legend, as Corbinian was going to Rome, a bear attacked and killed his horse. St Corbinian punished the bear by making him carry his belongings the rest of the way to Rome. In his memoir, Pope Benedict said "I have carried my pack to Rome and wander for some time now through the streets of the Eternal City. When release will come I cannot know. What I do know is that I am God's pack animal, and, as such, close to him."

"What's What" is a publication of the Youth Ministry Department of St Mary, Canandaigua, and St Bridget, Bloomfield.

Our Youth Ministry Mission Statement [Draft]:

Building on the mission of our parishes to follow the way of Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and to make Christ more fully present in all who live within our community, the Youth Ministry mission is to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today; to affirm the gifts of our youth and provide opportunities for young people to share their gifts with the larger community; and to meet the religious, spiritual and social needs of all youth with the committed leadership, guidance and support of our parish family, providing an opportunity for our entire faith community to grow together in Christian faith.