
**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ottawa, February 11, 2013

**ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST COMMENTS ON
POPE BENEDICT XVI'S PLANNED RESIGNATION**

The Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, S.J., Archbishop of Ottawa, on learning that Pope Benedict XVI plans to resign on February 28 made the following statement:

“A number of times in recent years – including on January 16 when I attended the Wednesday audience and greeted the Pope at the end of it – I wondered how long such a frail man could keep up the pace that the papacy was demanding of him.

Last month, as on the other occasions I was privileged to meet him, Pope Benedict XVI was again cordial, attentive, and kind.

Today, I am full of admiration for Pope Benedict's courage in admitting that the demands of office exceed his physical and intellectual capacity to exercise the ministry of unity that is required of the Holy Father as successor to St. Peter. Up until now, his wonderful and insightful teaching, his governance of the Church and his prayerful celebration of the sacraments have helped the Church to focus on knowing Jesus Christ and living according to his word.

This morning after learning the news, I prayed for the pope – that he might enjoy a serene and peaceful retirement – and for his successor – that he might effectively lead the Church to proclaim and live the faith in the challenges we face in our time.”

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