

# Chicago Tribune



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FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## A final farewell

Benedict's reign ends with a promise to obey next pope



ALESSANDRO BIANCHI/REUTERS PHOTO

A helicopter carrying Pope Benedict XVI passes St. Peter's Basilica on Thursday as the outgoing pontiff departs the Vatican for the papal summer villa outside Rome.

### George: Resignation 'liberates' successor

By MANYA A. BRACHEAR  
Tribune reporter

ROME — Cardinal Francis George hopes to become the first Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago to live to retire. But he didn't expect the Holy Father to take that same approach.

George watched from the rooftop of the Pontifical North American College in Rome on Thursday as the white helicopter carrying then-Pope Benedict XVI circled St. Peter's Square and flew out of sight.

In retirement, "he may be a spiritual father, but not somebody who's a pastor who governs," George explained hours after he shared one last private moment with the pope and minutes before Benedict's departure. "He's given that up because he feels he really can't do the function as he ought to. That's a modern note in our perception of the papacy."

Suddenly, a global church in which 1.2 billion faithful love their Holy Father finds itself without one and facing a paradigm shift. Could Benedict's

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VINCENZO PINTO/GETTY-AFP PHOTO

The pope gives his last address from a balcony at the villa.

### Timing is key for conclave

A quick move to elect the church's next pope would favor the most familiar faces. **Nation & World, Page 17**

### Benedict's temporary home

Italian hilltop town of Castel Gandolfo has played summer host to popes for centuries. **Nation & World, Page 17**

### Cardinals focus on quest for new leader

By PHILIP PULLELLA AND TOM HENEGHAN  
Reuters

VATICAN CITY — With Pope Benedict XVI officially in retirement, Catholic cardinals from around the world Friday begin the complex, cryptic and uncertain process of picking the next leader of the world's largest church.

Benedict ended his difficult reign Thursday pledging unconditional obedience to whoever succeeds him to lead the world's 1.2 billion Catholics at one of the most crisis-ridden periods in the church's 2,000-year history.

Some details are still unclear, owing to Benedict's unexpected abdication, so the cardinals will hold an informal session before the traditional rounds of talks begin Monday.

No front-runner stands out among the 115 cardinal electors — those younger than 80 — so discreetly sizing up potential candidates will be high on the cardinals' agenda.

They will also use closed-door consultations preceding a conclave to discuss future challenges

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## 500,000 lbs, 1,000 bolts, 9 days

Replacement of Wells Street Bridge's southern part 'as difficult as it gets'

By CYNTHIA DIZIKES  
Tribune reporter

Over the next week, construction crews will descend on the Wells Street Bridge to perform the engineering equivalent of a heart transplant on the nearly century-old structure.

CTA Brown Line and Purple Line service across the bridge will be cut off temporarily starting Friday night as dozens of tradesmen work around-the-



ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE PHOTO

A replacement for a portion of the Wells Street Bridge floats on the Chicago River in preparation for the project.

clock, 12-hour shifts to demolish the southern portion of the double-decker drawbridge. If all goes according to plan, the 500,000-pound replacement section, which was floated up the Chicago River by barge last Saturday, will be moved

into place by Tuesday.

That will leave the crews several days to install more than a thousand bolts needed to attach the 72-foot-wide span (each must fit within one-sixteenth of an inch), rebuild the ties and track work, and replace and re-energize the rail power and track signaling in time for the morning commute on Monday, March 11.

The full rehabilitation of the similar Lake Street Bridge in 1996 took about 12 months. This portion of the Wells Street Bridge reconstruction is slated to be completed in just nine days, said Daniel Burke,

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## Groupon CEO to staff: 'I was fired'

Mason's ouster no surprise in light of firm's poor results

By AMEET SACHDEV AND ROBERT CHANNICK  
Tribune reporters



BLOOMBERG PHOTO

After he was fired Thursday, Andrew Mason wrote a note to his Groupon colleagues filled with the same offbeat humor, charm and candor that defined his tenure as chief executive of the daily deals company he co-founded.

"After four and a half intense and wonderful years as CEO of Groupon, I've decided that I'd like to spend more time with my family," the letter began. "Just kidding — I was fired today."

His ouster came as no

Andrew Mason was dismissed as CEO of Groupon.

**Phil Rosenthal:** Mason's exit just might be a good deal for Groupon. **Business**

surprise. Questions about his future have been swirling for months because of Groupon's poor performance since going public a little more than a year ago.

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**Run the marathon — if you're lucky**  
Lottery replaces registration system. **Talk, Page 3**

**Automatic budget cuts set to begin**  
Experts favor targeted trims. **Nation & World, Page 12**



Tom Skilling's forecast High 34 Low 20

Chicago Weather Center: Complete forecast on back page of A+E section

\$1.00 city and suburbs, \$1.25 elsewhere  
165th year No. 60 © Chicago Tribune





ELECTING THE POPE

# Reign ends as search begins

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such as better Vatican management, the need for improved communication and the continuing sexual abuse crisis.

"The discussion we have in the congregations will be most important for the intellectual preparation" for choosing a pope, said Boston's Cardinal Sean O'Malley, adding that the electors were preparing spiritually for the vote with intense prayer.

"I would imagine each of us has some kind of list of primary candidates, and others secondary," said Cardinal Francis George of Chicago at a media briefing with O'Malley and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

The papacy formally became vacant Thursday at 8 p.m. local time, marking the first time in six centuries a pope has resigned.

In a symbolic gesture, the Swiss guards who stood sentry at the papal summer residence south of Rome, where the pope flew by helicopter less than three hours earlier, quit their posts and the massive wooden doors of the hilltop residence were closed.

At the same time, the papal apartments in the Vatican were locked and will not be opened until a new pope is elected.

As he left the Vatican by helicopter, Benedict sent his last Twitter message: "Thank you for your love and support. May you always experience the joy that comes from putting Christ at the center of your lives."

Bells rang out from St. Peter's Basilica and churches all over Rome as the helicopter circled Vatican City and flew over the Colosseum and other landmarks to give the pontiff one last view of the city where he is also bishop.

"As you know, today is different to previous ones," he told an emotional, cheering crowd holding balloons and banners after he arrived in the small town of Castel Gandolfo, where the summer residence is located.

He told the crowd, many of whom were crying, that he would soon become simply "a pilgrim who is starting the last phase of his pilgrimage on this earth."

He then turned and went inside the villa, never to be seen again as pope.

"I wanted to see him for the last time. I hope his successor follows in his footsteps. I feel very moved to be here," said Giuseppe Ercolino, a 19-year-old student from a nearby town.

In an emotional farewell to cardinals Thursday



As Benedict stepped down in Rome, the bells of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Mexico City rang out thousands of miles away to mark his eight-year reign. EDGARD GARRIDO/REUTERS PHOTO



Nuns pray while waiting for Pope Benedict XVI to wave from the window of the Italian summer retreat where he began his retirement. OLI SCARFF/GETTY PHOTO



At St. John the Baptist's Cathedral in Lyon, France, churchgoers and clergy prayerfully marked the pope's resignation during a Mass on Thursday. JEFF PACHOUD/GETTY-APF PHOTO

morning in the Vatican's frescoed Clementine Hall, Benedict appeared to send a strong message to the top echelon of the church as well as the faithful to unite behind his successor.

"Among you there is the future pope, to whom I today declare my unconditional reverence and obedience," he said.

The pledge, made ahead of the conclave, was significant because for the first time in history, there will be a reigning pope and a former pontiff, to be known as the "pope emeritus," living in the Vatican.

Conclaves are among the world's most secretive elections, with no declared candidates, no open campaigning and electors who often do not know more than a few dozen men in the room.

George said cardinals consulted other electors before the conclave to learn more about possible choices, asking, "What do you know about this candidate?" or "What kind of person is he?"

O'Malley, at his first conclave and already being mentioned in Italian media as a potential candidate, said he had been "using the

Internet a lot" to read up on other cardinals.

"At the past two conclaves, the cardinals elected the smartest man in the room. Now it may be time to choose a man who will listen to all the other smart people in the church," said the Rev. Tom Reese, a historian and senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University.

Nothing is set, but the Vatican seems to be aiming for an election by mid-March so the new pope can be installed before Palm Sunday on March 24 and

lead Holy Week services culminating with Easter the following Sunday.

Benedict leaves his successor a top secret report on rivalries and scandals within the Curia, prompted by leaks of internal files last year that documented the problems hidden behind the Vatican's thick walls and the church's traditional secrecy.

The cardinals will not see the report, but its three cardinal authors will be in the general congregations to advise electors on its findings.

"Since we don't really

know what's in the report, I think we'll depend on the cardinals in the congregations to share with us what they think will be valuable for us to know to make the right decision for the future," O'Malley said.

"In these past eight years we have lived, with faith, beautiful moments of radiant light in the path of the church as well as moments when some clouds darkened the sky," Benedict said before his resignation became official, adding that he had "tried to serve Christ and his church with deep and total love."

## George, 'a bit saddened,' bids farewell to pontiff

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retirement change how Catholics relate to the pope? Could it and should it change how the cardinals elect his successor?

"You're always a father. That's a relationship that's permanent," George said. "And now you've got function coming in ... that's different."

"Is there a sense of impermanence that changes the relationship?" he asked. "That could happen. It doesn't have to happen. ... It adds a certain note to the whole thing."

It didn't take George until 8 p.m. Rome time, when Benedict officially retired, to lament the pope's departure and to wonder how his precedent would shape the future of the Catholic Church worldwide.

Cardinals gathered at the Apostolic Palace on Thursday morning to bid farewell to Benedict face to face.

George joined about 70 other cardinals on Wednesday in St. Peter's Square for the pope's last public audience.

George compared the solemn ceremony to a wake marking the end of an era, where Benedict also got to sum up his legacy.



Cardinal Francis George, head bowed, joins fellow cardinals Wednesday as the pope holds his last public audience. GABRIEL BOUVY/GETTY-APF PHOTO



### Reporting from Rome

The Tribune's Manya A. Brachear is in Rome to report on the selection of the new pope and the role of Chicago's Cardinal Francis George.

"I feel a bit saddened," George said. "It's a departure like if he were moving away. There's a sadness in that. There's also a shared sense that this will strengthen the mission of the church at this time."

Benedict's resignation underscores the idea that the Petrine ministry, or papal office, belongs to the church, not to the man who holds the title, George said.

The same philosophy underlies term limits for pastors in the Chicago archdiocese and the require-

ment that all bishops must submit letters of resignation when they turn 75. George became the first Chicago archbishop to hand in his letter last year.

"When you change a pastor now, because we have terms, that disrupts a fatherly relationship very often — and people don't expect that," George said. "They expect to have the same pastor the rest of their lives or at least the rest of his. (A term limit) does change the relationship to the pastor. They figure, 'He's going to go, and I'm still going to be here.' That makes some difference in how they approach their priest."

Roman clergy also must retire at a certain age. Cardinals who turned 80 before Thursday cannot vote for the next pope in the conclave. Benedict concluded that retirement or resignation also could be appropriate for the pope, also known as the bishop of Rome.

"The office is more important than the officeholder," George said. "In a sense, he's highlighted the importance of the office by the reason he gave for resigning the office — for the good of the church. The church is not complete without

someone in that role. But who that is has been variously interpreted."

The ability to resign is also a prospect for the next pope and the men who select him to keep in mind, George said.

The resignation has set a different tone, he said, referring to the process of selecting a successor. "It's historic, and in a sense it liberates the pope a little bit — whoever is chosen next — to know there's an honorable way out."

The Rev. Donald Senior, president of Chicago's Catholic Theological Union, said the pope's historic move might even liberate the cardinals to pick a younger man who might not want to accept such a demanding modern-day role for the rest of his life. The father analogy can be taken too far, Senior said.

"It actually has opened a path for future popes to think about," he said. "You hold it with a nonpossessive hand. I think people are coming to see that. You can't resign being a father. You can resign an office. That's what happened here."

But Senior said it's a lesson for all of the church's leadership to heed. "It reminds them that

they're entrusted with an office," Senior said. "It's not your personal privilege or personal possession. You're holding something that belongs to the church. That's where your accountability is. You don't possess it. I think that's very important for authority in any setting."

Call it Benedict's last teaching as pope, one of the many teachings for which George expressed gratitude in a letter to Benedict before coming to Rome.

On Thursday, after Benedict's farewell address, he greeted each cardinal personally. George seized that opportunity to thank him for his friendship.

"He's a very friendly man in a reserved way," George said. "You always felt that. I always felt that when I was with him, and I wanted to thank him."

"I had already thanked him for those other qualities that everybody knows. This is more personal," he continued. "This is the last personal encounter I'll probably have with him. I wanted to let him know that I was grateful (that) in his position, I could see him as a friend."

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