



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Pope's resignation leaves Archbishop saddened but thankful

VANCOUVER (Feb. 11) – *Archbishop J. Michael Miller released the following statement today on the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.*

News of Pope Benedict's pending resignation early this morning left me as startled as anyone, and I can't help but feel a sense of sadness that the Church is losing not only a great historic figure, but also a father and a friend.

The Holy Father has been a tremendous source of truth, stability and inspiration not only for the past eight years of his papacy, but also for decades as a theologian and scholar. To learn he will be stepping aside leaves us saddened while at the same time thankful for his lifetime of service to the Church.

Pope Benedict has advanced important initiatives in his emphasis on the harmony between faith and reason, religious liberty, ecumenical dialogue, evangelization, the primacy of the love of God, and the importance of truth in a highly secularized world.

His decision to step down may also be an important legacy which is bound to influence the decision-making of the cardinals at the next conclave.

I ask all Catholics and people of goodwill to support the Holy Father in prayer during his final days as our shepherd, and to pray for the enlightenment of those responsible for choosing his successor as we trust in the Holy Spirit to guide the Church as He has for the past 2,000 years.

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