

# First Anniversary of the Election of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

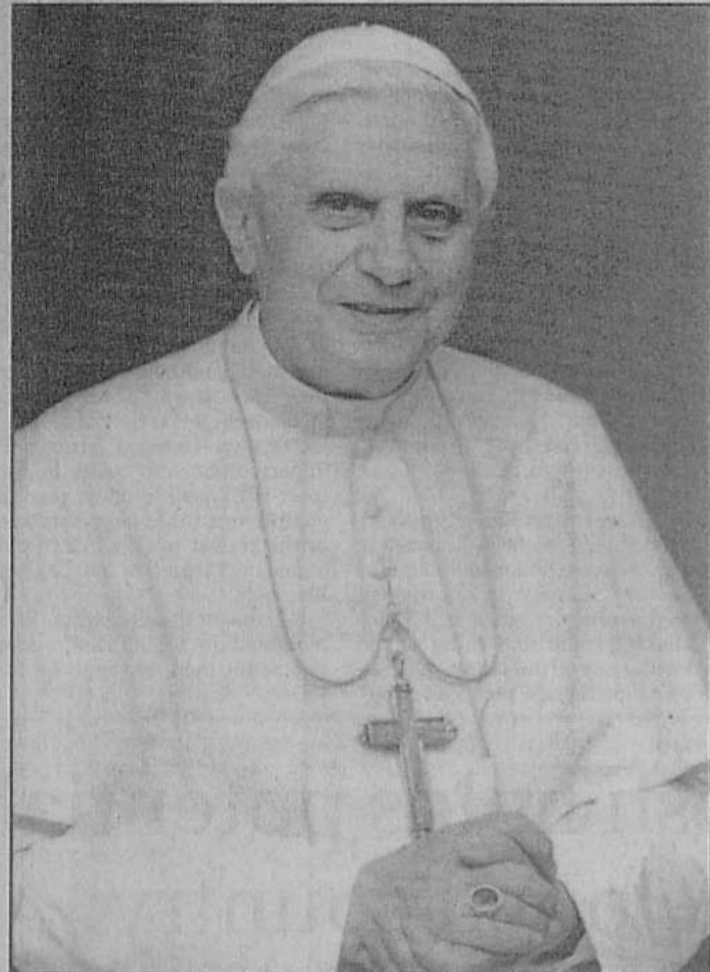
## (National Day of the Holy See)

The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

April 19, 2006

### His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI



chose the name Benedict XVI.

The very name Benedict, which the new Pope chose, is a sign of his personal commitment to peace. In taking this name, he wanted to evoke both the Patron Saint of Europe, who inspired a civilization of peace on the whole continent, and Pope Benedict XV, who condemned the First World War as a "Useless slaughter" and worked for universal acknowledgement of the lofty demands of peace.

Pope Benedict XVI, who is also a renowned theologian was born on 16th April 1927, in Markt am Inn-Germany. He was ordained a Priest on 29th June 1951. For many years, he taught theology in different Universities; as a young priest in 1962, he took part in Vatican Council II, in quality of consultant to Cardinal Joseph Frings, then the Archbishop of Cologne. In 1977, he was appointed Archbishop of Munich and Freising. He was created Cardinal by Pope Paul VI on 27th June 1977. In 1981, Pope John Paul II nominated him as the Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith. Since 30th November 2002, he was Dean of the College of Cardinals. In all these offices, he served with simplicity, sincerity and dedication.

On the following day of his election, in his very first speech to the College of Cardinals in the Sistine Chapel, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his faith in Divine mercy by saying: "I undertake this minis-

try, the 'Petrine ministry' at the service of the universal Church, with humble abandon to the hands of the Providence of God. And it is to Christ in the first place that I renew my total and trustworthy adhesion: 'In Te, Domine, Speravi; non confundar in aeternum!'" The Roman Pontiff, in his speech also assured to every one, even to those who follow other religions that the Church wants to continue to build an open and sincere dialogue with them, in the search for the true good of humankind and of society as he said: "From God I invoke unity and peace for human family and declare the willingness of all Catholics to cooperate for true social development, one that respects the dignity of all human beings. I will make every effort and dedicate myself to pursuing the promising dialogue that my predecessors began with various civilizations, because it is mutual understanding that gives rise to conditions for a better future for everyone".

As we celebrate the first Anniversary of Pope Benedict's election let us pray together with him as he does at the end of his this year's Peace Message: "May all mankind grow in esteem for this fundamental truth (Peace) and strive to make it ever more present in our world, and in this way, to offer a safer and more serene future to generations yet to come".

#### MESSAGE

It is a great joy for me to address a message to the People of Bangladesh on the special occasion of the first Anniversary of the election of the Pope His Holiness Benedict XVI. On this joyful occasion, I convey my best wishes and warm greetings to the People of Bangladesh.

The People of Bangladesh and the Holy See enjoy a special bond and a unique relationship since the time of the establishment of their diplomatic relations in 1973. The People of Bangladesh have a special heart and love for the Pope and it has been clearly seen during the period of the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of the new Pope Benedict XVI last year. I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to all those who prayed for the late beloved Pope John Paul II, who died on 2nd April last year. On that occasion, people from all walks of life of the Bangladeshi society, Government and Civil Authorities, Politicians, Leaders of various Religions and faiths Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists as well as Christians expressed their sympathies and condolences and joined us in praying for the eternal repose of John Paul II. I was deeply touched by this gesture and expression of their love and admiration towards the Pope and I thank them all.

The new Pope, His Holiness Benedict XVI, following the path traced by his Predecessor John-Paul II, is committed in pursuing the peace of the world. In the traditional Message for the World Day of peace at the beginning of the New Year, the Pope Benedict XVI reiterated the steadfast resolve of the Holy See to continue serving the cause of peace. In his message entitled: "In truth, Peace", He expressed the conviction that wherever and whenever men and women are enlightened by the splendour of truth, they naturally set out on the path of peace. He said "Peace is an irreplaceable yearning present in the heart of each person, regardless of his or her particular cultural identity. Consequently, everyone should feel committed to the service of this great good, and should strive to prevent any form of untruth from poisoning relationships". He further stated that "All people are members of the one and the same family. The truth of peace calls upon every one to cultivate productive

and sincere relationships; it encourages them to seek out and to follow the paths of forgiveness and reconciliation, to be transparent in their dealings with others, and to be faithful to their word".

The Holy Father in his message also stressed that "the truth of peace must also let its beneficial light shine even amid the tragedy of war. As a means of limiting the devastating consequences of war as much as possible, especially for civilians, the international community has created an international humanitarian law. In a variety of situations and in different settings, the Holy See has expressed its support for humanitarian law, and has called for it to be respected and promptly implemented, out of the conviction that the truth of peace exists in the midst of war". Concluding his message, The Pope reminded all that "if peace is to be authentic and lasting, it must be built on the bedrock of the truth about God and the truth about man as this truth alone can create sensitivity to justice and openness to love and solidarity, encouraging every one to work for a truly free and harmonious human family".

His Holiness Benedict XVI, from the very first day of his Installation as the Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church, affirmed that "the Church wants to continue building bridges of friendship with the followers of all religions, in order to seek the true good of every person and of society as a whole". Later in another occasion, the Pope came back to touch the question of the Muslim-Christian relations, saying: "Past experience teaches us that, unfortunately, relations between Christians and Muslims have not always been marked by mutual respect and understanding... The lessons of the past must help us to avoid repeating the same mistakes. We must seek paths of reconciliation and learn to live with respect for each other's identity. The defence of religious freedom, in this sense, is a permanent imperative, and respect for minorities is a clear sign of true civilization".

The Pope concluded with the following exhortation: "Christians and Muslims, we must face together the many challenges of our time. There is no room for apathy and disengagement, and even less for partiality and sectarianism... Interreligious, and

intercultural dialogue between Christians and Muslims cannot be reduced to an optional extra. It is in fact a vital necessity, on which in large measure our future depends." The Holy See encourages the religious harmony in the society of Bangladesh. I am happy to learn that today many people and organizations are engaged in Inter-Religious dialogue so that the religious harmony could be upheld through understanding and dialogue.

Bangladesh has always been known for its Religious harmony. For centuries people belonging to different religious groups have lived here in peace. It is a country of tolerance, peaceful coexistence between different Religions and ethnic groups. I wish and pray that all the Bangladeshi people Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, as well as tribal all together may work for the cause of peace, thereby assuring the world of a better future, one marked by peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.



Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam  
Papal Nuncio to Bangladesh

### The Vatican City State

One of the Smallest States of the World



**Origin and nature:** Vatican City State is the spiritual centre of the Catholic Church and the governing centre of the Holy See. It is one of the smallest states in the world. Its territory covers an area of a square 108 acres (44 hectares).

Vatican has a very long history. During the period from the 4th Century to 1870, the Vatican controlled the territory around Rome, which served as capital of the Papal States. The present day Vatican City State came into being with the Lateran Treaty stipulated between the Holy See and Italy in 1929.

The Pope is the Sovereign of the Vatican City State which serves as territorial support of the inherent independence and sovereignty of the Holy See, the central governing body of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church's mission is to proclaim the truth of the Gospel, for the salvation of all peoples, and to foster peace and justice for all. She does this through its various particular and local churches all over the world and through her central government, consisting of the Pope and the Apostolic See or Holy See, which helps him to administrate the Universal Church. The Supreme Pontiff resides in the Vatican City State where some of the Holy See's Offices also have their headquar-

ters. The State thus has the singular characteristic of being the instrument of the Holy See's and the Catholic Church's independence of any power established in this world.

**Population:** The State has a population of around 1000, of whom some 450 have Vatican citizenship and the remainder is only temporarily or permanently authorized to reside in the State. Half the citizens live outside the State in other countries, mainly for Foreign Service reasons (in particular diplomatic personnel). The acquisition and loss of citizenship, authorizations to reside in the State territory and formalities for access are governed by special provisions issued under the terms of Lateran Treaty.

#### The State Bodies and their Powers

**Form of Government:** The State has the head in the Supreme Pontiff who has full legislative, executive and judiciary powers. During the period the Holy See is being vacant, these powers are exercised by the College of Cardinals. The Supreme Pontiff, elected by Cardinals who have not yet reached 80 years of age, also becomes State Sovereign the moment he accepts his election to the Pontificate.

**The Legislature and Executive:** Legislative provisions are issued by the Supreme Pontiff and, in his name, by the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State, who also promulgates the regulations. Both are published in a special supplement of the Acta Apostolicae Sedis, which is the official Gazette of the Holy See. The executive body is the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State and, under it, the Special Delegate of the same Commission; under these come the General Directorates and the Government Directorates, with their respective offices and services.

**The Judiciary:** According to the law of 21st November 1987, the judiciary consists of a judge, a Tribunal, a Court of Appeal and a Supreme Court which exercise their powers on behalf of the Supreme Pontiff. Their respective jurisdiction is laid down in the Vatican City State's Code of Civil and Penal Procedure.

#### Relations with Foreign States and presence in International Organizations

**Diplomatic Relations:** The Supreme Pontiff represents the State and enters relations with

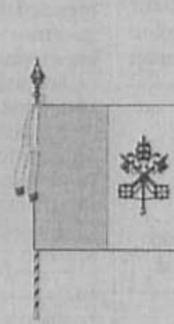
other States through the Secretariat of State. Both the Holy See, as the sovereign body of the Catholic Church, and the Vatican City State have always received full recognition of their international legal personality; they are members of international organizations, participate in international conferences and ratify conventions.

**International Organizations:** Besides the organizations in which the Holy See has permanent observers (e.g. UNO, FAO, UNESCO) or of which it is a member (AIEA, International Atomic Energy Agency and WTO, World Tourism Organization) the Vatican City State participates, inter alia, in the following: Universal Post Union (UPU), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Wheat Council (IWC), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), International Union of Bern for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, International Union of Paris for the protection of Industrial Property, World Medical Association, International telecommunications Sattellite Organization (INTELSAT), European Telecommunications Sattellite Organization (EUTELSAT).

**International Conventions:** The Holy See or the Vatican City State have also ratified (sometimes with reservations) numerous international conventions, including: International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Convention on the rights of the Child, Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Amending Protocol, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Convention on the Exploration and peaceful uses of Outer Space, Protocol on the Prohibition of Bacteriological and toxic weapons, Geneva Conventions (for the amelioration, in time of war, of the condition of the wounded and sick; on the protection of the civilian persons; on the treatment of prisoners of war; on the status of the refugees) and additional protocols, International Convention for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Time of War, UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, European Cultural Convention, Conventions on Maritime Law, Conventions on Road Circulation.

### Heartiest felicitations to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

On the occasion of the 1st Anniversary of His Pontificate



#### Enem-Omni Companies

The Metropolitan Christian Cooperative Housing Society Ltd. Tejgaon, Dhaka  
Mr. Md. Saiful Islam, MD, Picard Bangladesh Ltd. Dhaka  
Mukta Enterprise, Dhaka  
Airborne Cargo Service, Dhaka  
Globelink Air Cargo Services Lt. Dhaka

Mr. Sultan Mahmood, Sultan Enterprise, Barisal  
Mr. Bijoy Krishna Dey, Amrita Oil Food Product, Barisal  
MAWTS Institute of Technology, Mirpur  
St. Francis Xavier's Girls' High School, Luxmibazar  
National Council of YMCAs of Bangladesh, Kakrail

St. Jude's International School, Dhanmondi  
Salesian Sisters of Mary Immaculate (SSMI), Mymensingh / Dhaka

Don Bosco Students' Home (DBSH), Monipuripara  
Human Development Programme (HDP), Monipuripara  
Mr. & Ms. Jerry Basil Gomes & Family, Rampura  
B.V. Trading Corporation, Tejkunipara  
Mr. Marcel A. Gomes & Ms. Kanta A. Gomes, Monipuripara  
Mr. Apu Lawrence Rozario & Ms. Janet Mary Gomes, Bara Maghbazar  
Mr. Joseph, Cynthia Modhu & Family, Mohammadpur  
Mr. Eric S. Quiah & Family, Kafurl  
Mr. Errol Gomes, Al-Siraj Travels, Gulshan  
Marlin Power Engineering (Pvt.) Ltd, Nodda  
Mr. Joachim Madhor & Ms. Rita Gomes & Family, Rayer Bazar  
Mr. Jonas Dhaki, The Automobiles, Baridhara  
Mr. Manuel Gomes, Emmanuel Food Village, Gulshan-2  
Mr. Placid Gomes & Ms. Elizabeth Gomes & Family, Indira Road  
Mr. Romeo N. Gomes & Ms. Juliet Gomes & Family, Monipuripara  
Mr. Dominic Botlero & Family, Tejgaon

Dr. Isidore Gomes & Family, Tejgaon  
Atharogram Development Centre, Tejgaon  
Mr. Innocent N. Gomes & Family, Tejgaon  
Mr. Nicholas Gomes & Ms. Cecilia Gomes & Family, Tejgaon  
Mr. Md. Akbar, Provatil Elias Automobiles, Baridhara  
Children's Garden (Kindergarten School), Mohammadpur  
Dhaka YMCA - Airport Road, Tejgaon

Mr. Peter A. Gomes & Family, Kafurl  
Dr. Noel Charles Gomes & Family, Kafurl  
Mr. & Ms. James Halder & Family, Rajabazar  
Tone Up Beauty Parlour, Holy Cross College Road  
The Christian Cooperative Thrift & Credit Society Ltd., Chittagong  
Mr. Robert Simon & Ms. Chitra Gomes & Family, Monipuripara  
Mr. Paul Mendes, Mirpur, Dhaka  
Ms. Monju Rozario & Family, Nagori  
Mr. Palash & Ms. Rekha Gonsalves, Nagori  
Mr. Dipok & Ms. Snigdha Bose & Family, Dhaka Cantonment  
Mr. Ronald & Ms. Patricia Quiah & Family, Uttara, Dhaka  
Elizabeth & Joseph Pereira, Joan Pereira, Dhaka

#### Overseas

Mr. & Mrs. Rowland and Mabel Quiah, Richmond Hill, New York  
Dr. Boniface Costa and Family, Suffolk, Virginia  
Mr. & Mrs. Dominic and Matilda Gomes and Family, Westlake, Ohio  
Mr. & Mrs. Domingo Anil Gomes and Family, Woodside, New York  
Ms. Priscilla & Maya Gomes, Woodside, New York  
Mr. & Mrs. Milton & Rufina D'Silva, Springfield, Virginia  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Clara Gomes and Family, Silver Spring, Maryland  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert and Agnes Rozario and Family, Woodbridge, Virginia  
Mr. & Mrs. Sirus and Linda Rozario, Flushing, New York  
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar and Lima Paul and Family, La Puente, California  
Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Taposh and Irine Gomes and Family, Astoria, New York  
Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Blaze Purification and Family, Miami, Florida  
Mr. & Mrs. Simon and Lucy Gomes and Family, Jersey City, New Jersey  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph and Philomina D'Costa and Family, Richmond Hill, New York  
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph and Jane D'Silva and Family, Chesapeake, Virginia  
Mr. Nikhil Ch. Bairagee (Matthew), California, USA