

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2005

Statement by Archbishop Alex J. Brunett On the election of Pope Benedict XVI

(Seattle) It is with great joy that we learned today of the election of Pope Benedict XVI. We are delighted that the cardinal electors chose a man of great knowledge and vast experience in the Holy See. Pope Benedict is known as a holy and humble man who is an articulate communicator as well as a good listener. As a cardinal, he has come to know most of the world's bishops and has shown great concern and understanding for the difficulties facing Catholic bishops, priests, religious and laity in contemporary times.

We are especially grateful to the Lord for the quick election of a new pope whose ministry we will cherish. I invite all Catholics and all those outside our Catholic communion to pray for the new pontiff and his ministry of unity, harmony and peace.

As Catholics, we thank God for the prayerful wisdom of the cardinal electors who have selected the former Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger as the first pontiff elected in the Third Christian Millennium. As a close collaborator with Pope John Paul II throughout his papacy, Pope Benedict the XVI has demonstrated a clear understanding of our continuing need for deeper conversion, and we pray that his guidance will teach all of us to live more fully our Catholic faith.

Catholic people and people of good faith all over the world are overjoyed on this occasion and I join them in celebrating the election of our Holy Father. Our prayers are with him as he assumes responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. We give thanks to God on this occasion and pray for God's favor on Pope Benedict XVI.

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