

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“Habemus Papam”

“Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd, Benedict XVI, a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care may he, as successor to the apostle Peter and vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

—*Opening Prayer taken from the Mass “For a Pope”*

“With the Catholic Church worldwide, all of us in the Catholic Diocese of San Diego embrace with love our new universal pastor.

Pope Benedict XVI will no doubt manifest the same shepherd’s care for which Pope John Paul II was known and appreciated.

In personal encounters with Cardinal Ratzinger, during my visits to the Chair of Peter, I was very impressed by the depth of his spirituality and love for the Lord. I was also struck by his humility in moments of dialogue and his selflessness in putting his intellectual gifts at the service of the Church.

We look to Pope Benedict XVI to be an instrument of unity in the Church and in the world, to champion the dignity of every human person, and to promote fidelity to the Gospel in holiness of life.”

—*Bishop Robert Brom, April 19, 2005*

We pray for our Church and our new universal Pastor, Benedict XVI, as we move through this transition of leadership. We are reminded that the Holy Spirit is with us, leads us, and guides us, as we make our journey of faith, and as Church, steadfastly witness to the Kingdom of God in this world.

F. Mike