

A photograph of Pope Benedict XVI, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a white cassock and a red sash. He is also wearing a dark red stole with gold embroidery. His arms are raised in a gesture of blessing or greeting. The background is dark.

Today in History

April 19, 2005

▲ **German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected Pope, taking the name Benedict XVI. In 2013 he became the first pontiff to resign since 1415**

1910: Halley's Comet, named after the English astronomer Edmond Halley who in 1705 first recognized its 75-76 year periodicity, reappeared

1995: A car bomb tore apart a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168

1995: Over 350 people were poisoned after phosgene gas was released on a crowded train in Japan

2000: The U.S. state of Vermont approved a bill granting homosexual couples equal rights under the law