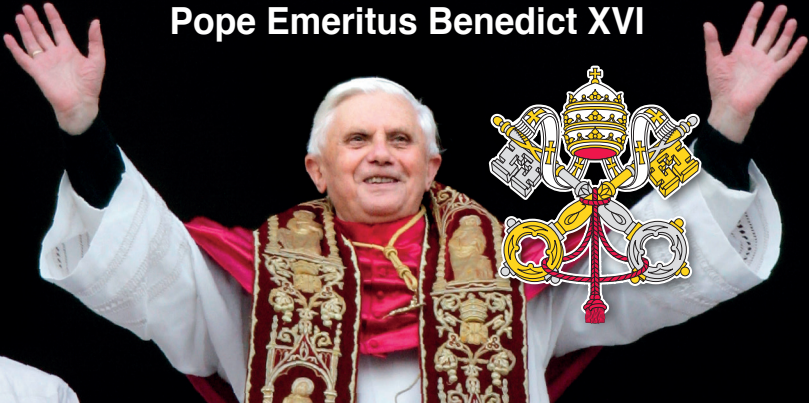


Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



■ **Apr 16, 1927:** Born **Joseph Alois Ratzinger** in Germany, son of policeman. Lives through Nazi rule during childhood

■ **1951:** Ordained into priesthood

■ **1977:** Appointed cardinal by **Pope Paul VI**

■ **1982:** Leaves post as archbishop of Munich to become head of **Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith** – uncompromising conservative views earn him nickname of **“God’s Rottweiler.”** Responsibilities include dealing with cases of child abuse by Catholic priests

■ **Apr 19, 2005:** Appointed Pope following death of **John Paul II** – 264th successor to St Peter takes name of **Benedict XVI**

■ **Sep 2006:** In his **Regensburg Lecture**, Benedict antagonises Muslims by appearing to suggest that Islam is inherently violent

■ **Apr 2008:** Benedict meets victims of abuse by priests during visit to U.S. – Church has paid **\$2 billion** to victims since 1992

■ **Mar 2010:** Benedict apologizes to victims of child sex abuse by Irish clergy, saying he feels **“shame and remorse”**

■ **2012:** **“Vatileaks” scandal.** Documents leaked to media reveal feuding, allegations of corruption and mishandling of finances within Holy See

■ **2013:** Benedict becomes first pope to retire from papacy in 600 years, citing poor health

■ **Dec 31, 2022:** Former Pope Benedict XVI dies at age 95

■ **Jan 5, 2023:** Pope Francis presides over Benedict’s funeral in St. Peter’s Square.
Benedict’s body will be interred in Vatican Grottoes, beneath St. Peter’s Basilica