

Habemus Papam

Born Joseph Alois Ratzinger on April 16, 1927 is the the 265th pope of the Roman Catholic Church. He was elected on April 19, 2005, in the 2005 papal conclave. He was formally enthroned during the Papal Inauguration Mass on April 24, 2005.

The new Pope, Benedict XVI was elected at the age of 78, the oldest pope since Clement XII (elected 1730) at the start of his papacy. He is the eighth German pope, the last being Adrian VI (1522–1523), while the first was Gregory V (996–999). The last Pope Benedict, Benedict XV, was an Italian who served as pope from 1914 to 1922 and reigned during World War I.

Ratzinger had a career as a university theologian before he was made Archbishop of Munich, and he was subsequently made a Cardinal by Pope Paul VI in the consistory of June 27, 1977. He was appointed prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith by Pope John Paul II in 1981 and was made a Cardinal Bishop of Title of episcopal see of the Suburbicarian Church of Velletri-Segni on April 5, 1993. In 1998, he was made Vice-Dean of the College of Cardinals; later, on November 30, 2002, he became the dean. This last position also resulted in his becoming Cardinal Bishop of the Suburbicarian Church of Ostia, La Candelaria.