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## Editorial

*The Vatican was abuzz with activity in the second half of February, with a list of high profile events. Before the all important Consistory to create new cardinals, the Pope met his advisory group for three days. This advisory body, popularly called the G8 council, is the group of cardinals who advise the Pope on the governance of the Church and possible reforms. Their first two sessions took place in October and December. This was followed by a meeting of all cardinals or an Extraordinary Consistory to reflect on the strengths and challenges faced by families and a way to prepare for the Synod on the Family, next year. The 'Ordinary Consistory' on February 22 saw the creation of 19 new cardinals. The presence of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI added to the joy of those present.*

*The newest cardinals included the Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin. Among the three Cardinals over 80 was Loris Capovilla, aged 98, who served as John XXIII secretary. He was absent at the Consistory owing to ill health. The following day, Pope Francis celebrated Mass with all the Cardinals. Having already earned a name for many catch phrases Pope Francis said "A heart without love is like a deconsecrated church". Calling the cardinals to a life of service he added "A cardinal enters the Church of Rome, not a royal court. May all of us avoid, and help others to avoid, habits and ways of acting typical of a court: intrigue, gossip, cliques, favoritism and partiality." What applies to the cardinals or bishops applies also to each one of us as Christians- laity, clergy or the religious.*

*Fr. Melwin Pinto, SJ*

## 1. Cardinals must be holy for they enter the Church of Rome, not a court: Pope

Pope Francis created nineteen new Cardinals on Saturday February 22, the Feast of the Chair of St Peter the Apostle. The newly created Cardinals received the insignia of their office – the red biretta and the cardinal’s ring – in a streamlined ceremony conducted entirely in Latin.



Eighteen of the new princes of the Church were present, while Cardinal Loris Capovilla, the 98 year-old former secretary to Bl. John XXIII and Archbishop-emeritus of Chieti-Vasto in Italy, was created in absentia. A very special guest was on hand, as well: Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI, whom Pope Francis had invited to share in the occasion. He was greeted with applause and tears from the stunned people in the pews. He smiled, waved and seemed genuinely happy to be there, took his seat in the front row, off to the

side, alongside the red-draped cardinals. It was the first time Benedict and Francis have appeared together at a public liturgical ceremony. The Pope and the Pope-emeritus embraced warmly and exchanged greetings before the ceremony began.



In his allocution, Pope Francis encouraged the whole College of Cardinals to recognize their office as one of service and readiness for sacrifice. **“The Church needs your courage, to proclaim the Gospel at all times,”** said Pope Francis, “both in season and out of season, and to bear witness to the truth.” The Holy Father went on to say, “The Church needs your prayer for the progress of Christ’s flock,” reminding the Cardinals that prayer, along with the proclamation of the Word, is the primary task of the Bishop.

Calling on the Cardinals to pray especially for suffering peoples, and to express with him their spiritual closeness to the ecclesial communities and to all Christians suffering from discrimination and persecution, he said, “The Church needs us also to be peacemakers, building peace by our words, our hopes and our prayers.”



Preaching at Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica on February 23, Pope Francis told the members of the College of Cardinals who were present that they become **part of the Church of Rome, “not a royal court.”** [\(Video 1\)](#) [\(Video 2\)](#)

“May all of us avoid, and help others to avoid, habits and ways of acting typical of a court: intrigue, gossip, cliques, favoritism, and partiality,” the Pope said as he called upon all the faithful,

and especially the cardinals, to be holy. **“Christian holiness is not first and foremost our own work, but the fruit of docility--** willed and cultivated-- to the Spirit of God thrice holy.”

“My brother cardinals, **Jesus did not come to teach us good manners, how to behave well at the table,”** he continued. “To do that, he would not have had to come down from heaven and die on the Cross. Christ came to



save us, to show us the way, the only way out of the quicksand of sin, and this way of holiness is mercy, that mercy which he has shown, and daily continues to show, to us. To be a saint is not a luxury. It is necessary for the salvation of the world. This is what the Lord is asking of us.”

“Whenever the least of our brothers and sisters finds a place in our hearts, it is God himself who finds a place there,” Pope Francis added. “When that brother or sister is shut out, it is God himself who is not being welcomed. A heart without love is like a deconsecrated church, a building withdrawn from God’s service and given over to another use.” (Source: CWN)



*Please find below the English version of Pope’s homily*

“Merciful Father, by your help, may we be ever attentive to the voice of the Spirit” (Opening Prayer). This prayer, the opening prayer of today’s Mass, reminds us of something fundamental: we are called to listen to the Holy Spirit who enlivens and guides the Church. By his creative and renewing power, the Spirit always sustains the hope of God’s People as we make our pilgrim way through history, and, as the Paraclete, he always supports the witness of Christians. In this moment, together with the new Cardinals, all of us want to listen to the voice of the Spirit as he speaks to us through the Scriptures we have just heard.

In the first reading, the Lord’s call to his people resounds: “You shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy” (Lev 19:2). In the Gospel Jesus echoes this call: “You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48). These words challenge all of us, as the Lord’s disciples. Today, they are especially addressed to me and to you, dear brother Cardinals, and in a particular way to those of you who yesterday entered the College. Imitating the holiness and perfection of God might seem an unattainable goal. Yet, the first reading and the Gospel offer us concrete examples which enable God’s way of acting to become the norm for our own. **Yet we – all of us – must never forget that without the Holy Spirit our efforts are in vain!** Christian holiness is not first and foremost our own work, but the fruit of docility – willed and cultivated – to the Spirit of God thrice holy.



The Book of Leviticus says: “You shall not hate your brother in your heart ... You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge ... but you shall love your neighbour as yourself” (Lev 19:17-18). These attitudes are born of the holiness of God. We, however, tend to be so different, so selfish and proud ... and yet, God’s goodness and beauty

attract us, and the Holy Spirit is able to purify, transform and shape us day by day. To make effort to be converted, to experience a heartfelt conversion: this is something that all of us – especially you Cardinals and myself – must do. Conversion!

In the Gospel Jesus also speaks to us of holiness, and explains to us the new law, his law. He does this by contrasting the imperfect justice of the scribes and Pharisees with the higher justice of the Kingdom of God. The

first contrast of today's passage refers to revenge. "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you ... if anyone should strike you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also'" (Mt 5:38-39). We are required not only to avoid repaying others the evil they have done to us, but also to seek generously to do good to them.



The second contrast refers to our enemies: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy'. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". Jesus asks those who would follow him to love those who do not deserve it, without expecting anything in return, and in this way to fill the emptiness present in human hearts, relationships, families, communities and in the entire world. My brother Cardinals, **Jesus did not come to teach us good manners, how to behave well at the table! To do that, he would not have had to come down from heaven and die on the Cross.** Christ came to save us, to show us the way, the only way out of the quicksand of

sin, and this way of holiness is mercy, that mercy which he has shown, and daily continues to show, to us. To be a saint is not a luxury. It is necessary for the salvation of the world. This is what the Lord is asking of us.

Dear brother Cardinals, the Lord Jesus and mother Church ask us to witness with greater zeal and ardour to these ways of being holy. It is exactly in this greater self-gift, freely offered, that the holiness of a Cardinal consists. We love, therefore, those who are hostile to us; we bless those who speak ill of us; we greet with a smile those who may not deserve it. We do not aim to assert ourselves; we oppose arrogance with meekness; we forget the humiliations that we have endured. May we always allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit of Christ, who sacrificed himself on the Cross so that we could be "channels" through which his charity might flow. This is the attitude of a Cardinal, this must be how he acts. **A Cardinal – I say this especially to you – enters the Church of Rome, my brothers, not a royal court. May all of us avoid, and help others to avoid, habits and ways of acting typical of a court: intrigue, gossip, cliques, favouritism and partiality.** May our language be that of the Gospel: "yes when we mean yes; no when we mean no"; may our attitudes be those of the Beatitudes, and our way be that of holiness. Let pray once more: "Merciful Father, by your help, may we be ever attentive to the voice of the Spirit"

The Holy Spirit also speaks to us today through the words of Saint Paul: "You are God's temple ... God's temple is holy, and that temple you are" (1 Cor 3:16-17). In this temple, which we are, an existential liturgy is being celebrated: that of goodness, forgiveness, service; in a word, the liturgy of love. This temple of ours is defiled if we neglect our duties towards our neighbour. Whenever the least of our brothers and sisters finds a place in our hearts, it is God himself who finds a place there. When that brother or sister is shut out, it is God himself who is not being welcomed. A heart without love is like a deconsecrated church, a building withdrawn from God's service and given over to another use.

Dear brother Cardinals, may we remain united in Christ and among ourselves! I ask you to remain close to me, with your prayers, your advice and your help. And I ask all of you, bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, and laity, together to implore the Holy Spirit, that the College of Cardinals may always be ever more fervent in pastoral charity and filled with holiness, in order to serve the Gospel and to help the Church radiate Christ's love in our world.

## 2. Brazilian president meets with Pope

Pope Francis received President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil in audience on the evening of February 20, the first day of the extraordinary consistory of cardinals. Rousseff traveled to Rome to attend the February 22 ceremony at which Archbishop Orani João Tempesta of Rio de Janeiro was created a cardinal. [\(Video\)](#)



During the half-hour meeting, which took place in the study of the Paul VI Audience Hall, the Pope had the “opportunity to express once again his affection and good wishes for the Brazilian people,” according to Vatican Information Service. The Pope was given a shirt and ball from the Brazilian World Cup soccer team, and the Pope, in turn, gave a medallion called “The Angel of Peace” to Rousseff.

Brazil has more Catholics than any other nation in the world: the nation of 201 million is 85% Catholic, according to Vatican statistics, though other sources put the figure closer to 75%.

## 3. Pope Apps: Want your children to learn more about the Pope? There's an 'app' for that



With his direct style, it's no surprise the Pope's words have reached millions, including children. From general audiences, to his 77th birthday: It's obvious he has a way with words and knows how to connect with kids. [\(Video\)](#)

For those who can't go to Rome to personally greet the Pope, there's an app that brings his message directly to them.

It's called the 'The Pope Francis Comics' app. Produced by

Master New Media, kids can play and pray. From studying the main message in some of the Pope's speeches, tweets or homilies, to a coloring game and comic strip.

Since the Pope is constantly asking everyone to pray for him, now kids can join in too, through this application.

It's available in German and English and it can be downloaded for \$2.99 through iTunes.



## 4. Australian cardinal to head new Vatican Secretariat for Economy

Pope Francis issued a Motu Proprio announcing the setting up of a new financial structure to coordinate and oversee the finances of the Holy See and Vatican City State. The Monday, February 24 announcement comes after several days of meetings of both the Council of 8 Cardinals, established by Pope Francis to advise on reform of the Curia and governance of the Universal Church, and the Committee of 15 Cardinals which oversees the economic affairs of the Holy See. [\(Video\)](#)



Australian Cardinal George Pell of Sydney will head a new Secretariat for the Economy which will be responsible for annual budgets and have authority over all the Holy See's administrative activities.

**Below the full English text of the statement from the Vatican Press Office on the new Motu Proprio entitled 'Fidelis Dispensator et prudens'**

The Holy Father today announced a new coordination structure for economic and administrative affairs of the Holy See and the Vatican State. Today's announcement comes after the recommendations of the rigorous review conducted by the

Pontifical Commission for Reference on the Organization of the Economic- Administrative Structure of the Holy See (COSEA) were considered and endorsed by both the Council of 8 Cardinals established to advise the Holy Father on governance and the Committee of 15 Cardinals which oversees the financial affairs of the Holy See.

COSEA recommended changes to simplify and consolidate existing management structures and improve coordination and oversight across the Holy See and Vatican City State. COSEA also recommended more formal commitment to adopting accounting standards and generally accepted financial management and reporting practices as well as enhanced internal controls, transparency and governance. The changes will enable more formal involvement of senior and experienced experts in financial administration, planning and reporting and will ensure better use of resources, improving the support available for various programs, particularly our works with the poor and marginalized.

### **The changes announced by the Holy Father include:**

1. Establishment of a new Secretariat for the Economy which will have authority over all economic and administrative activities within the Holy See and the Vatican City State. The Secretariat will be responsible, among other things, for preparing an annual budget for the Holy See and Vatican City State as well as financial planning and various support functions such as human resources and procurement. The Secretariat will also be required to prepare detailed financial statements of the Holy See and Vatican State.

2. The Secretariat for the Economy will implement policies determined by a new Council for the Economy - a 15 member Council comprised of 8 Cardinals or Bishops, reflecting various parts of the world and seven lay experts of different nationalities with strong professional financial experience. The Council will meet on a regular basis and to consider policies and practices and to prepare and analyze reports on the economic-administrative activities of the Holy See.

3. The Secretariat for the Economy will be headed by a Cardinal Prefect reporting to the Council for the Economy. He will be supported by a Secretary-General in the management of day to day activities.

4. The Holy Father has appointed Cardinal Pell, the current Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, to the role of Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy. Details for Cardinal Pell are attached.

5. New arrangements also include the appointment of an Auditor-General, appointed by the Holy Father who will be empowered to conduct audits of any agency of the Holy See and Vatican City State at any time.



6. The changes will confirm the role of APSA as the Central bank of the Vatican with all the obligations and responsibilities of similar institutions around the world.

7. The AIF will continue to undertake its current and critical role of prudential supervision and regulation of activities within the Holy See and Vatican City State.

The Prefect of the new Secretariat for the Economy has been asked to start work as soon as possible. He will prepare the final statutes and other related matters with the assistance of any necessary advisors and will work with COSEA

to complete the implementation of these changes approved by the Holy Father

## 5. Pope Francis welcomes prisoners to his home

Nineteen inmates of the Italian prisons of Pisa and Pianosa were received in a private meeting by Pope Francis on Wednesday morning, 19th February, in the Casa Santa Marta, before the weekly General Audience. The Vatican daily L'Osservatore Romano reported the news that the Pope prayed with them and blessed them before the image of "Our Lady who unties knots," especially dear to him. Then he greeted each of them and listened to them one by one. He shared words of mercy and forgiveness in particular, for one inmate who gave him a personal letter.



The inmates were on a spiritual pilgrimage to Rome and were accompanied by two chaplains. They met with Pope Francis after attending an early morning Mass celebrated by Archbishop Lorenzo Baldisseri in the Vatican Grottoes. Informed of their presence, the Pope wanted to personally meet them and welcomed them into his home, at 9 am. Also on hand for the forty-five minute long encounter were the director of the penitentiary Pianosa, magistrates, and prison guards.

Archbishop Baldisseri described the meeting as "beautiful and moving."

## 6. Pope sends personal video message to Pentecostals

Pope Francis has shown his enthusiasm for ecumenism through a private video recorded for long-time friend, Anglican Episcopal Bishop Tony Palmer, which was played at a gathering of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Kenneth Copeland Ministries is a Protestant ministry based in Texas, founded and directed by Copeland and his wife and children.

In the video message, the Holy Father explains that he and Palmer have been "friends for years." After a brief introduction in English, the Pope spoke in Italian and the video was played with subtitles.

The Pope goes on to speak of joy and yearning -- joy that his audience has "come together to worship Jesus Christ the only Lord" and yearning that "this separation comes to an end and gives us communion. I am nostalgic (yearning), of that embrace that the Holy Scripture speaks of when Joseph's brothers began to starve from hunger, they went to Egypt, to buy, so that they could eat."

"We have lot of cultural riches, and religious riches. And we have diverse traditions. But we have to encounter one another as brothers. We must cry together like Joseph did. These tears will unite us. The tears of love," Francis told the congregation. The Pope said he spoke as "a brother" and "in a simple way," inviting them: "Let us allow our nostalgia (yearning) to grow, because this will propel us to find each other, to embrace one another. And together to worship Jesus Christ as the only Lord of History."

"I thank you profoundly for listening to me," the Pope continued. "I thank you profoundly for allowing me to speak the language of the heart." And he asked the congregation for prayer, a request that they granted immediately following the video, as Copeland led the congregation in prayer, which he described as "prayer in the Spirit," as they spoke in tongues.

Francis urged: "And let us pray to the Lord that He unites us all. Come on, we are brothers. Let's give each other a spiritual hug and let God complete the work that he has begun. And this is a miracle; the miracle of unity has begun. "A famous Italian author named Manzoni, once wrote in his novel, of a simple man amongst the people, who once said this, 'I've never seen God begin a miracle without Him finishing it well.' He will complete this miracle of unity. I ask you to bless me, and I bless you. From brother to brother, I embrace you. Thank you."

After Copeland led the congregation in prayer, himself visibly moved, he echoed the Holy Father's idea of the "miracle of unity [that] has begun," saying that when he entered ministry 47 years ago, "this was impossible."

[Short News video from Rome Reports 2.27 mts.](#)

[Full message on Video recommended 7.01 mts](#)

[The context, the Pentecostal event Inspiring 22.43 mts](#)





## 7. Pope Francis meets high level interfaith group from Argentina

Pope Francis met with 45 important interfaith leaders from Argentina who returned from the Holy Land, which the Pontiff himself is due to visit May 24-26. Thursday, February 27 meeting in the Santa Marta guesthouse included 15 Jews, 15 Muslims and 15 Catholics. Their trip covered many of the stops which the Holy Father is expected to visit during his brief pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel and Palestine. The group met leading political and religious authorities and visited the holy sites of the three monotheistic religions.

According to a report in the Vatican paper, L'Osservatore Romano, many members of the group, which included



several rabbis, imams and priests, have known the Pope since he was Cardinal Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires. They had collaborated with him in inter-religious dialogue and worked with him on a number of joint social and charitable projects aimed at helping people in difficult situations.

The group said they wanted to express their friendship and spiritual closeness to the Pope by ending their pilgrimage in Rome so they could meet with the Holy Father offer him their best wishes for his ministry and for his own upcoming trip to the Holy Land.

The hour-long meeting in the Vatican was described as one of “great cordiality” and was also attended by Cardinals Kurt Koch, President of the Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, and Jean -Louis Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

## 8. Pope issues letter to families

Pope Francis issued a letter to Families on Tuesday February 25, in which he asks for prayers for two upcoming meetings which will have the Family as their main theme. In his letter addressed to Families, Pope Francis asks for their support and prayers for the upcoming Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme of “pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization”. [\(Video\)](#)

The Pope says that this Synod is dedicated in a special way to Families, to their “vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church.”

The Holy Father goes on to say that the meeting will involve all the people of God including bishops, priests, and lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world, all of whom he adds, are “actively participating in



preparations for the meeting through practical suggestions and the crucial support of prayer”. He also asks for the prayers of Families for the World Meeting of Families which is due to take place in Philadelphia in September 2015.

Pope Francis expresses the hope that through these vital prayers for both events, the Church will undertake “a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel.” In conclusion, the Pope underlines that it is Jesus himself who illuminates the path of Families in their daily lives and sustains everyone in their journey.

*Below please find the Pope's letter in English.*

Dear families,

With this letter, I wish, as it were, to come into your homes to speak about an event which will take place at the Vatican this coming October. It is the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme of “pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization”. Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family.

This important meeting will involve all the People of God – bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world – all of whom are actively participating in preparations for the meeting through practical suggestions and the crucial support of prayer. Such support on your part, dear families, is especially significant and more necessary than ever. This Synodal Assembly is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family



life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church. I ask you, therefore, to pray intensely to the Holy Spirit, so that the Spirit may illumine the Synodal Fathers and guide them in their important task. As you know, this Extraordinary Synodal Assembly will be followed a year later by the Ordinary Assembly, which will also have the family as its theme. In that

context, there will also be the World Meeting of Families due to take place in Philadelphia in September 2015. May we all, then, pray together so that through these events the Church will undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel.

I am writing this letter to you on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. The evangelist Luke tells us that the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, in keeping with the Law of Moses, took the Baby Jesus to the temple to offer him to the Lord, and that an elderly man and woman, Simeon and Anna, moved by the Holy Spirit, went to meet them and acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah (cf. Lk 2:22-38). Simeon took him in his arms and thanked God that he had finally “seen” salvation. Anna, despite her advanced age, found new vigour and began to speak to everyone about the Baby. It is a beautiful image: two young parents and two elderly people, brought together by Jesus. He is the one who brings together and unites generations! He is the inexhaustible font

of that love which overcomes every occasion of self-absorption, solitude, and sadness. In your journey as a family, you share so many beautiful moments: meals, rest, housework, leisure, prayer, trips and pilgrimages, and times of mutual support... Nevertheless, if there is no love then there is no joy, and authentic love comes to us from Jesus. He offers us his word, which illuminates our path; he gives us the Bread of life which sustains us on our journey.

Dear families, your prayer for the Synod of Bishops will be a precious treasure which enriches the Church. I thank you, and I ask you to pray also for me, so that I may serve the People of God in truth and in love. May the protection of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph always accompany all of you and help you to walk united in love and in caring for one another. I willingly invoke on every family the blessing of the Lord.

### 9. Pope Francis renews his Argentinean ID... Also his passport

Pope Francis wants to travel the world as a regular Argentine and not a privileged citizen of the Vatican City microstate, Argentina said on Monday, Feb 17. The head of the Catholic Church and former bishop of Buenos Aires has asked his birth country to renew his passport and identification card, the country's interior and transportation ministry said. [\(Video\)](#)



"Francis specifically asked not to enjoy any privileges so his new identification card and passport have been processed through the usual administrative channels," Minister Florencio Randazzo said. "In coming days, he will receive his passport in the Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican, where he has stated he is a resident," Randazzo said.

Argentina's government, which enjoys drawing attention to the popular new pope's roots, released pictures of Francis' new identification card on Monday. Pope Francis already holds a passport issued by the Vatican, Randazzo said.

### 10. Protecting the author copyright of Pope Francis



The Vatican on Thursday confirmed that the Libreria Editrice Vaticana (Vatican Publishing House) holds the author copyrights for all works written by Pope Francis. This ruling was spelled out by the Pastor Bonus No. 191 in 1978 and on March 23rd 2013 Pope Francis reiterated and renewed that ruling, furthermore specifying that the Libreria Editrice Vaticana is and remains the legitimate owners of author copyright and economic use for texts of his that pre-date his election to the Papacy.

## 11. Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI: Theories surrounding resignation are 'absurd'



The Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI has lamented what he calls “absurd speculations” about his resignation in a letter to Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli, of the newspaper La Stampa. The Pope-emeritus was responding to a question about recent newspaper theories surrounding the validity of his resignation one year ago.

“There is absolutely no doubt regarding the validity of my resignation from the Petrine ministry,” Pope-emeritus Benedict XVI wrote. He said the only condition for the validity of his resignation was the complete freedom of his decision. He called speculation regarding its validity “simply absurd.”

He also clarified he continued to wear the white cassock and kept the name Benedict for “purely practical reasons,” noting that at

the moment of his resignation there were no other clothes available. In any case, he added that he wears the white cassock in a visibly different way to how the reigning Pope wears it. He called questions about his attire another case of “completely unfounded speculation”. The Pope-emeritus also confirmed the accuracy of media reports about another letter he wrote to a friend. In that letter, he said he is “grateful to be bound by a great identity of views and a heartfelt friendship with Pope Francis”, and sees his “last and final job to support his pontificate with prayer.”

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## Special Videos

1. *Gimme Shelter, a movie about the gift of life, challenges and all...* [\(Click here\)](#)
2. *Iran diplomat with Holy See* [\(Click here\)](#)
3. *A look back at Benedict XVI's pledge of obedience to the new Pope* [\(Click here\)](#)
4. *Pope Francis blesses child dressed up like him* [\(Click Here\)](#)

Walking on the corridors dressed as the Pope is fine....



...But meeting him in person is a different story!

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