

## Pope Benedict XVI's U.S. itinerary



Pope Benedict XVI

April 15-20, 2008


- Tuesday, April 15  
Arrival at Andrews Air Force Base. Greeting by President Bush and Mrs. Bush. Also present will be local dignitaries of the church and the apostolic nuncio.
- Wednesday, April 16, 10:30 a.m.  
President Bush and the First Lady meet the Holy Father on the south lawn of the White House. This is only the second time in history that a pontiff has visited the White House. At the end of the welcoming ceremony, a private meeting is scheduled for the Holy Father and the President, while dignitaries of the two states also meet.
- Wednesday, April 16, 5:30 p.m.  
Private prayer service and meeting with the 350 bishops of the United States at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Before the prayer service, which will be held in the crypt of the Shrine, there will be outdoor photo opportunities of the public welcoming the pope to this national church.
- Thursday, April 17, 10:00 a.m.  
The pope will offer Mass at the new Nationals Park in Washington. This will be the first non-baseball event in the park, and Catholics from around the country are making plans to attend.
- Thursday, April 17, 5 p.m.  
The heads of the more than 200 Catholic colleges and universities in the United States and superintendents from the 195 Catholic dioceses have been invited to an address by Pope Benedict XVI on the importance of Catholic education. The address will be on the campus of The Catholic University of America, the only college in the United States operated by the bishops.

- Thursday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.  
Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Jews and representatives of other religions will meet the Holy Father at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, next door to Catholic University.
- Friday, April 18, 10:45 a.m.  
Pope Benedict XVI will address the United Nations, after an early morning flight to New York.
- Friday, April 18, 6 p.m.  
Prayer service with leaders from other Christian denominations at St. Joseph's Church, founded by German Catholics, in Manhattan.
- Saturday, April 19, 9:15 a.m.  
Mass for priests, deacons and members of religious orders at St. Patrick's Cathedral in the heart of New York City.
- Saturday, April 19, 4:30 p.m.  
The Holy Father will meet with young Catholics, including 50 youngsters with a range of disabilities, at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers. Thousands of young people, including hundreds of seminarians, are expected to participate in a rally/prayer service and to hear the pope speak.
- Sunday, April 20, 9:30 a.m.  
The Holy Father will visit Ground Zero, the site of the disaster at the World Trade Center.
- Sunday, April 20, 2:30 p.m.  
Mass at Yankee Stadium will bring this historic visit to a close. The 200th anniversary of the Baltimore Archdiocese's designation as an archdiocese, as well as the birth of four dioceses - Boston, New York, Louisville and Philadelphia - will be highlighted during the Mass.
- Sunday, April 20, 8 p.m.  
Shepherd One lifts off from John F. Kennedy airport in the Brooklyn Diocese, heading east to the Eternal City.





Bishop Glen John Provost recently hosted a luncheon for members of the Southwest Louisiana legislative delegation at his residence before the beginning of the current session. In attendance were, from left, Daniel Loar, Executive Director of the Louisiana Conference

of Catholic Bishops, Rep. A. B. Franklin, Sen. Dan "Blade" Morrish, Rep. John E. Guinn, Bishop Provost, Rep. Michael E. Danahay, Sen. Willie L. Mount and Rep. Chuck Kleckley.



His Excellency,  
The Most Reverend  
Glen John Provost, D.D.,  
Bishop of Lake Charles,  
with the clergy, religious,  
and laity of the  
Diocese of Lake Charles  
prayerfully welcome  
His Holiness,  
Pope Benedict XVI  
on his Apostolic Visit  
to the United States

## Abrazando Cristo fundraiser underway

LAKE CHARLES - Tickets for the annual Abrazando Cristo Mission Program fundraiser are now available, according to the Very Reverend Daniel Torres, the program's director. Each ticket is \$100 and only 500 tickets will be sold. First prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$1,000 and third prize is \$500. The drawing will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 15, at St. Henry Catholic Church.

Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase medicines, construction supplies and Catholic materials for evangelization to be used during the group's mission trip to Nicaragua. Father Torres also noted that direct donations are gratefully accepted. For more information contact Father Torres at 439-7400 or by mail at 414 Iris Street, Lake Charles, 70601.

## Did you know...

The Rev. John H. Giles and the Rev. Brian King were both ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Lake Charles under the Church's "Pastoral Provision." Father Giles was ordained on December 19, 1987 and, at the time, was one of 50 married priests in the United States as well as one of the first Methodist ministers to be ordained. He served in various assignments until his untimely death follow-

ing a short illness on August 4, 2006. He and his wife Carol were the parents of two sons. Father King was ordained December 19, 1997 and currently serves as Vice President of Mission Integration at Christus St. Patrick Hospital. He and his wife Kathy have a son.

The Mother Church of the diocese, what is now the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, was established on December 8,

1869 as the Church of St. Francis de Sales. The new parish, had been a mission church of St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Abbeville. The territory of the new church took in all of the civil jurisdiction known as Imperial Calcasieu Parish. Two other churches were created from that geographic area before the end of the 19th century. Do you know which parishes they were? Find out in the next issue of the Catholic Calendar.

# A Chaplain's Chaplain

Houses of Worship  
By Peter Duffy

(Editor's Note: This Sunday, April 13, is Good Shepherd Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter. It has also been designated as "World Day of Prayer for Vocations." The following article appeared in the Wall Street Journal.)

As a young chaplain candidate in the U.S. Navy in the late 1980s, the Rev. Daniel L. Mode became captivated by the story of a Roman Catholic priest who was killed at age 38 while ministering to U.S. Marines in 1967. Over the next several years, Father Mode immersed himself in the life of the Rev. Vincent R. Capodanno, a Maryknoll missionary from Staten Island, N.Y., who spent 16 months traveling from battlefield to battlefield in Vietnam. What began as Father Mode's master's thesis at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., turned into a book called "The Grunt Padre," published in 2000.

Working with an organization called Catholics in the Military, Father Mode used the research in his book to initiate a "cause for canonization" application to Rome. In 2006, Father Capodanno was declared a "Servant of God," the first step in the journey to sainthood. The Vatican named Father Mode as "postulator," or promoter of the cause, and a tribunal was established to interview witnesses to Father Capodanno's life. One authenticated miracle will qualify the Vietnam War chaplain for beatification; a second for sainthood.

Father Mode, who is 42, does not advocate for his hero's holiness from behind a desk in a diocesan headquarters somewhere. Rather, he is following Father Capodanno's example, serving as a Navy chaplain in a war zone. He has been on active duty for three years now, including 20 months in Afghanistan.

"I can identify with him more," Father Mode says by telephone from the USS Harry S. Truman, a Naval aircraft carrier

er now stationed in the Persian Gulf. "I've been in a cold, dirty, cramped Humvee for hours on end. It has brought a realism to my study of his life."

Father Mode is one of 300 active-duty Catholic chaplains in the U.S. military, responsible for tending to the 375,000 Catholic service personnel. "I need about 500 more," quips Archbishop Timothy Broglio, who leads the Archdiocese of the Military Services, U.S.A.

Catholic chaplains have been part of the U.S. military since the Rev. Adam Marshall, S.J., was commissioned as a Navy officer in 1824, serving on the USS North Carolina. Although two chaplains now have been formally nominated for sainthood - along with Father Capodanno, there is the Rev. Emil J. Kapaun, who was killed in Korea in 1951 - the most famous Catholic chaplains are two others: the Rev. Francis Duffy of "The Fighting 69th," played by Pat O'Brien in the 1940 film about World War I, and the fictional Father Mulcahy of the M\*A\*S\*H TV series.

While the modern Catholic Church has been reluctant to support armed conflict in all but the most exceptional circumstances - "War no more, war never again!" Pope Paul VI famously cried at the United Nations in 1965 - the church has always taken seriously its duty to care for the souls of fighting men and women. The Vatican's opposition to the Iraq war, Archbishop Broglio says, "does not change the responsibility that we have to attend to soldiers who are engaged in war." The same principle applied during the Vietnam War, when the Vatican made repeated attempts to halt the conflict.

From his post on the USS Truman, Father Mode told me that few chaplains were better at relating to the average grunt in war than Father Capodanno, a thin soft-spoken winner of the Bronze Star and the Medal of Honor. The New Yorker is remembered for his keen listening ability, his to-the-point homilies and his expressive eyes. "They were gentle eyes, hurting eyes, compassionate eyes - eyes that had

seen an awful lot, eyes that would embrace you," said Eli Takesian, a Presbyterian chaplain who served alongside him.

Father Capodanno was renowned for his willingness to be among Marines in the heat of combat. "If a company was going out, he would just slip into their midst and he'd be gone before you knew it," says Tony Grimm, a captain who was assigned by his battalion commander to keep track of the priest.

On Sept. 4, 1967, the men of M or "Mike" Company, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, fought a vicious battle with North Vietnamese Army regulars in the Que Son Valley, 30 miles south of Da Nang. Throughout the day, Father Capodanno administered last rites, delivered medical care and dragged injured Marines to safety - even after he was twice struck by gunfire in his hand and shoulder.

Ray Harton, who at the time of the battle had been in Vietnam for three months and who now lives in Carrollton, Ga., was one of the last Marines to see Father Capodanno alive. He himself was injured in the battle, having been shot in the left arm. He recalls the peace that came over him as he heard the priest's voice: "Stay calm, Marine. Someone will be here to help. God is with all of us this day." Father Capodanno then dashed to tend to another wounded corpsman - and was fatally cut down by machine-gun fire.

Father Mode is trying hard to ensure that Father Capodanno's heroic service in Vietnam is properly recognized and remembered. His efforts, by extension, call attention to the service of many, many other chaplains, including those still ministering under fire in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Duffy is the author of "The Killing of Major Denis Mahon: A Mystery of Old Ireland" (Harper-Collins)

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