

House Resolution No. 508

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES KORMAN (Sponsor), JONES (110), WIELAND, WOOD, GANNON, SOMMER, WALKER, ENGLISH, BURNS, MCKENNA, KRATKY, MCDONALD, HUMMEL, NORR, HARRIS, SCHIEFFER, CORNEJO, TORPEY AND HURST (Co-sponsors).

1685L.011

1 **WHEREAS**, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has led an extraordinary life, and is
2 known not only for his strong traditionalist stance on the doctrines of the Roman Catholic
3 Church, but also for his career as a strong academic and theologian; and

4

5 **WHEREAS**, Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger was born in Germany on Holy Saturday,
6 April 16, 1927. Growing up in Germany, he suffered from the broken German economy and
7 joblessness in the post World War I era, and then through the travesties of World War II; and

8

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1943, Ratzinger was drafted into the German army. For the next two
10 years, he served his country as part of an anti-aircraft unit, but in the waning days of World
11 War II he deserted and was taken prisoner by the United States Army. In June 1945, Ratzinger
12 was released from a POW camp, hitching a ride home on a milk truck; and

13

14 **WHEREAS**, ordained a priest in 1951, Ratzinger established himself as a highly
15 regarded university theologian, serving as a professor of theology at several German universities.
16 On March 24, 1977, he was appointed Archbishop of Munich and Freising, taking as his motto
17 "Fellow Worker in the Truth". On June 27, 1977, he was elevated to Cardinal by Pope Paul VI;
18 and

19

20 **WHEREAS**, in 1981, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger became Prefect of the Congregation
21 for the Doctrine of Faith, the Vatican office that oversees the doctrine on the faith and morals
22 throughout the Catholic world. As enforcer of the doctrinal boundaries of the Roman Catholic
23 Church, he gained the nickname of "Cardinal No" for his efforts to suppress the liberation
24 theology movement, religious pluralism, moral relativism, and challenges to traditional Catholic
25 teachings; and

26

27 **WHEREAS**, in the Roman Curia, besides his prefecture at the Doctrine of the Faith,
28 Pope Benedict XVI has been a member of the Council of the Secretariat of State for Relations
29 with States; of the Congregations for the Oriental Churches, for Divine Worship and the
30 Discipline of the Sacraments, for Bishops, for Evangelization of Peoples, for Catholic Education,

31 for Clergy and for the Causes of the Saints; of the Pontifical Councils for Promoting Christian
32 Unity, and for Culture; of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, and of the Pontifical
33 Commissions for Latin America, "*Ecclesia Dei*", for the Authentic Interpretation of the Code of
34 Canon Law, and for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches; and

35

36 **WHEREAS**, his many publications are spread out over a number of years and constitute
37 a point of relevance for many people, especially for those interested in entering deeper into the
38 study of theology; and

39

40 **WHEREAS**, from 2002 until his election as Pope, Cardinal Ratzinger was also Dean of
41 the College of Cardinals, the group that advises the pope and, when called upon, elects a new
42 pontiff; and

43

44 **WHEREAS**, after the death of Pope John Paul II on April 2, 2005, as Dean of the
45 College of Cardinals he presided over the College's deliberations in General Congregation during
46 the Vacancy of the Holy See, presided at the Solemn Funeral Mass for Pope John Paul II, and
47 presided at the Mass For the Election of the Supreme Pontiff; and

48

49 **WHEREAS**, on April 19, 2005, on the fourth ballot of the conclave of Cardinals for the
50 election of the successor to St. Peter held in the Sistene Chapel of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome,
51 Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger was elected the Bishop of Rome and the Supreme Pontiff of the
52 Roman Catholic Church; and

53

54 **WHEREAS**, his election as the 265th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church and the ninth
55 German Pope came on the Feast of St. Leo IX, the most important German Pope of the Middle
56 Ages. Ratzinger chose the pontifical name of Benedict, which comes from the Latin word
57 meaning "the blessed", in honor of both Pope Benedict XV and St. Benedict of Nursia; and

58

59 **WHEREAS**, commenting on his experience during the conclave for the election of the
60 new pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI said that "At a certain point, I prayed to God 'please don't do this
61 to me'...Evidentially, this time He didn't listen to me."; and

62

63 **WHEREAS**, in his apostolic blessing "Urbi et Orbi", given on April 19, 2005, Pope
64 Benedict XVI said:

65

66 "After the great Pope John Paul II, the Cardinals have elected me, a simple and
67 humble laborer in the vineyard of the Lord. The fact that the Lord knows how
68 to work and to act even with inadequate instruments comforts me, and above all
69 I entrust myself to your prayers. Let us move forward with the joy of the Risen
70 Lord, confident of his unfailing help. The Lord will help us and Mary, his Most
71 Holy Mother, with be on our side. Thank you."; and

72

73 **WHEREAS**, one of Pope Benedict XVI's main roles was to teach about the Catholic
74 faith and the solutions to the problems of discerning and living the faith. "Friendship with Jesus
75 Christ" was a frequent theme of his teaching. He stressed that everything depends on this
76 intimate friendship:

77 "We are all called to open ourselves to this friendship with God...speaking to
78 Him as to a friend, the only One who can make the world both good and
79 happy...That is all we have to do is put ourselves at His disposal."; and

80

81 **WHEREAS**, in his personal explanation and summary of his first encyclical *Deus*
82 *Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI said:

83 "If friendship with God becomes for us something ever more important and
84 decisive, then we will begin to love those whom God loves and who are in need
85 of us. God wants us to be friends with His friends and we can be so, if we are
86 interiorly close to them."; and

87

88 **WHEREAS**, Pope Benedict XVI is known to be deeply interested in classical music, is
89 an accomplished pianist with a grand piano in his papal quarters, and has recorded an album of
90 contemporary classical music in which he sings and recites prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
91 His favorite composer is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, of whose music the Pope said: "His music
92 is by no means just entertainment; it contains the whole tragedy of human existence.". His
93 favorite works of music are Mozart's Clarinet Concerto and Clarinet Quintet; and

94

95 **WHEREAS**, Pope Benedict XVI is also known for his fondness of cats, publishing a
96 book in 2007 called *Joseph and Chico: A Cat Recounts the Life of Pope Benedict XVI*, which
97 told the story of the Pope's life from the feline Chico's perspective; and

98

99 **WHEREAS**, on February 11, 2013, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation from
100 the papacy, effective February 28, 2013; and

101

102 **WHEREAS**, Timothy Cardinal Dolan of New York, president of the United States
103 Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a statement issued moments after learning of the resignation
104 of Pope Benedict XVI said:

105 "The Holy Father brought the tender heart of a pastor, the incisive mind of a
106 scholar and the confidence of a soul united with His God in all he did...

107 Pope Benedict often cited the significance of eternal truths and he warned of a
108 dictatorship of relativism. Some values, such as human life, stand out above all
109 others, he taught again and again. It is a message for eternity...

110 He spoke for the world's poor when he visited them and wrote of equality among
111 nations in his peace messages and encyclicals. He pleaded for a more equitable
112 share of world resources and for a respect for God's creation in nature...

113 Those who met him, heard him speak, and read his clear, profound writings
114 found themselves moved and changed. In all he said and did he urged people
115 everywhere to know and have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ...

116 Our experience impels us to thank God for the gift of Pope Benedict.":

117

118 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri
119 House of Representatives, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, hereby express our sincere
120 appreciation and gratitude for the gift of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and the remarkable
121 legacy with which he leaves the papacy to enjoy the serenity and joy of a life of quiet prayer in
122 his retirement; and

123

124 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
125 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for His
126 Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

✓