BENEDICT XVI
INSTITUTE
FOR SACRED MUSIC AND DIVINE WORSHIP

Save the Date: June 4 2027

Requiem for Pope Benedict XVI

What you are seeing above is a new bas-relief sculpture Archbishop Cordileone and the Benedict XVI Institute commissioned by an extraordinary Renaissance man: Michael J. Curtis.

Meeting men and women who are both great Catholics, great minds, great artists and great souls is one of the best perks of this job and Michael has become a good friend in the few short years since we met. He is an architect, poet, historian, educator, and sculptor (If you've seen the James Madison sculpture the Federalist Society uses for its "Feddie Awards" to law school chapters, that is his work!).

Some of you may be particularly interested in Michael J. Curtis' America 250 series of statues focused on great American "heroes, myths and legends."

Anyway the magnificent sculpture of Pope Benedict XVI above, which I think truly captures his combinate of gravity and warmth will be used for the new Benedict XVI "Spirit of the Liturgy Medal honoring outstanding contributions to reverent liturgy and sacred music. Who would you nominate for this award? Hit reply and tell me, love to hear what you think on this.

I can't tell you yet who has been selected to receive this honor, but I can tell you when and where it will be awarded: at a Liturgy Summit, hosted next year at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, CA June 1-4. Save the date, especially June 4, for on the final day Archbishop Cordileone will celebrate a Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass for Pope Benedict XVI Institute, which he has commissioned from our composer-in-residence Frank La Rocca. The maestro of Dallas, Dr. Alfred Calabresi, will be bringing his choir to the Bay area to celebrate this major new work of sacred art.

The Requiem for Pope Benedict XVI will be celebrated for the first time in 2027 to mark the 100th anniversary of this great and holy man's birth and the 5th anniversary of his death. Come for the whole Summit if you can. But most importantly, mark off June 4, 2027 to be in the Bay Area. It's a Mass, so it's free to you and to all who seek the face of the Lord. If you'd like to support these evangelization efforts, renewing the great sacred music tradition of the Church, well your gifts are always appreciated. And they really do help Archbishop Cordileone's ministry here. Thank-you.

Several of you have written to ask me if we will be doing our annual Retreat for Artists and Art-Lovers at St. Patrick's Seminary. Alas not this year, as we have taken on at Archbishop Cordileone's request, a rather ambitious Reverent Liturgy Project to bring more classically Catholic worship practices and reverent sacred music to more parishes across this country. It is still in development but so far we have interviewed more than 170 priests in 36 states to learn both what are the barriers holding them back and what has helped them offer more reverent liturgy in ways that unify parishes. Our target audience is the people who can actually affect how the faithful

experience the Mass: priests, seminarians, deacons and music directors. For now we are focusing on reaching out to priests. If you are a priest, or if you know any priests who would like to join this movement and help Archbishop Cordileone, they can sign up here: https://benedictinstitute.org/reverent-liturgy/

Finally, if you can't wait a year to attend a liturgy summit, and/or you are looking for something to replace our Artists retreat consider this upcoming Sacred Liturgy Summit June 29-July 3 hosted by the Dominican Friars of the Western Province in Portland, Oregon:

"Under the theme JESUS in the Garden of Gethsemane: The Will of GOD in the EUCHARIST, the conference brings together nationally recognized scholars, leading theologians, philosophers, and artists to illuminate how God's will is expressed through the Church's teaching, art, architecture, and music."

Since more than 40 priests will attend, we asked them if they'd be willing to promote the new Reverent Liturgy Project in their materials and Dr. Lynne Bissonnette-Pitre generously said yes. So letting you know about this Liturgy Summit was the least we could do in return, to thank them. Special hotel rates end June 5, so if you are going, go book now. Travel info is here: https://sacredliturgy.org/info/travel-2026/

Thanks for your faith, your friendship, for being part of this amazing journey that you make possible with the gift of your prayers and your presence and the occasional present, too. I'm profoundly grateful to you for all of these gifts.

Warmly,

Maggie

Maggie Gallagher, Executive Director

Support the Pope Benedict "Spirit of Liturgy" Medal