

**GENERAL INTENTION**  
 THAT, DURING THIS YEAR OF FAITH,  
 CHRISTIANS WILL DEEPEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE  
 OF THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST AND JOYFULLY  
 BEAR WITNESS TO THE GIFT OF FAITH IN HIM.

# VATICAN

**MISSION INTENTION**  
 THAT THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF  
 THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH FREQUENTLY  
 SUFFER DISCRIMINATION, WILL RECEIVE  
 THE STRENGTH OF FIDELITY AND  
 PERSEVERANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

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## 2012 and the Holy See

**CUBA TRIP.** Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass in Revolution Square March 26 in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. The Pope traveled to the communist nation 14 years after his predecessor, Blessed Pope John Paul II. L'Osservatore Romano Vatican Pool via Getty Images



**GUILTY.** Paolo Gabriele, the Pope's former valet, was jailed for 18 months for leaking hundreds of private documents from the Pope's office. Gabriele insisted he committed the crime out of love for the Pope and to uncover corruption in the Vatican. The Pope was reported to have been shocked and saddened by Gabriele's actions, but wished to see justice done. Many expected a papal pardon, but none has yet been given. L'Osservatore Romano Vatican Pool via Getty Images



**TALE OF TWO CONSISTORIES.** Cardinals James Michael Harvey of the U.S. (bottom), Bechara Boutros Rai of Lebanon (c) and Basileios Cleemis Thottunkal of India sit before a special papal audience Nov. 26 after the second of two consistories. Archbishops Timothy Dolan of New York and Edwin O'Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, were among the 22 who were made cardinals on Feb. 18. Reuters/Tony Gentile

### Pope Benedict's Faith-Filled Seventh Year

BY EDWARD PENTIN  
 ROME CORRESPONDENT

**P**ope Benedict XVI, 85, in "Educating Young People in Justice and Peace," his World Day of Peace message Jan. 1, 2012, urged the faithful to dedicate themselves to spreading a positive message of life.

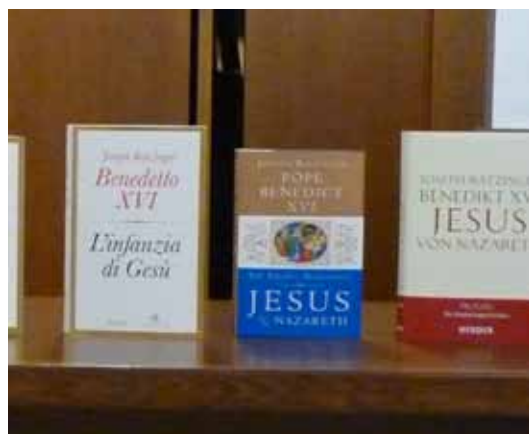
"With what attitude should we look to the new year?" asked the Holy Father, who would celebrate the seventh anniversary of his pontificate April 19. "We find a very beautiful image in Psalm 130. The Psalmist says that people of faith wait for the Lord 'more than those who watch for the morning' (Psalm 130: 6). They wait for him with firm hope because they know that he will bring light, mercy, salvation."

The Pope then set out on a year that would see him traveling to Lebanon, Mexico and Cuba, writing the third part of his trilogy on Jesus of Nazareth, issuing a *motu proprio* on the true nature of Catholic charities, and ushering in the Year of Faith. He also presided over two consistories, the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization and the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 30th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Oh, yes, the Holy Father also joined the millions of Twitter users, posting his first "tweet" Dec. 12 (see story on page 6).



**NEW EVANGELIZATION.** Cardinals, bishops and patriarchs arrive in procession at St. Peter's Basilica to celebrate Mass for the closing of the Synod of Bishops Oct. 28. The establishment of a special Church commission to defend religious liberty, a pastoral document on how to encounter Jesus Christ and a new apologetics of Christian thought came out of the synod. Vatican Pool/Getty Images



**VOLUME 3.** Pope Benedict XVI's book 'Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives' is displayed during a presentation at the Vatican Nov. 20. The final volume of the Pope's trilogy is much smaller than the previous two volumes, numbering just 144 pages. Estefania Aguirre/CNA



**TRAVELS.** Pope Benedict arrives for Mass in Plaza de la Revolución (below) March 28 in Havana, Cuba. From March 23-29, the Holy Father made the first of just two apostolic voyages outside Italy this year: to Mexico and Cuba. In Mexico, he urged the people to maintain their faith and continue to turn to the Virgin Mary in the face of violence and chaos caused by the country's deadly drug war. He then visited Cuba, saying the country needs change, but adding that it will only happen if citizens are able to freely seek truth, fraternity and reconciliation. The visit included a half-hour meeting with an ailing Fidel Castro. The Pope managed to persuade the Cuban government to re-introduce a public holiday on Good Friday. The Pope also traveled to Beirut, Lebanon, in September for a three-day visit. Despite a bloody war in Syria and riots across the Islamic world, the Pope visited to sign and deliver his apostolic exhortation on the Church in the Middle East that took place at the Vatican in October 2010. The Holy Father was largely greeted enthusiastically by Muslims and Christians in the country. He made impassioned pleas for peace, reconciliation and interreligious harmony in the region and appealed to Christians not to emigrate. L'Osservatore Romano Vatican Pool via Getty Images



**FAMILY AFFAIR.** Pope Benedict XVI greets children at Linate Airport as he arrives to attend the 2012 World Meeting of Families on June 1 in Milan, Italy. Antonino Melloni/Press Office VII World Meeting of Families via Getty Images



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Children dressed in traditional Bavarian costumes dance for Pope Benedict XVI during the Holy Father's 85th birthday celebration in the Clementine Hall April 16. Alessia Giuliani Vatican Pool via Getty Images



**GOLDEN JUBILEE.** A child attends a candlelight procession Oct. 11 in St. Peter's Square to mark the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. The Pope urged lapsed and lukewarm Catholics to rediscover their Church and stop the advance of 'spiritual desertification.' Pope Benedict opened the Year of Faith in Rome Oct. 11 with a call for a New Evangelization rooted in an authentic interpretation of the documents of the Second Vatican Council. He also issued a new reflection on the Council, recalling it as a 'moment of extraordinary expectation.' The Year of Faith runs through Nov. 24, 2013. Reuters/Max Rossi