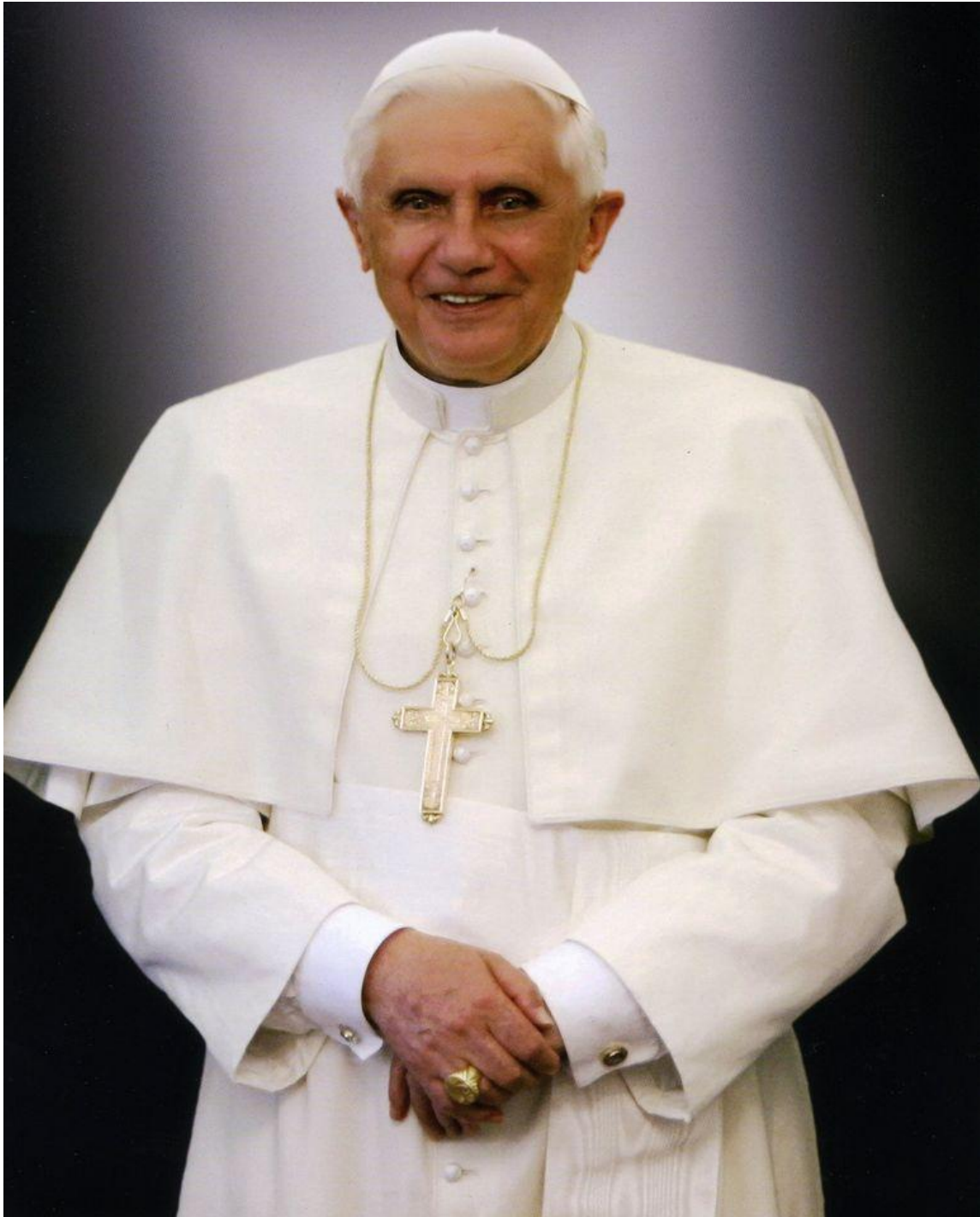


Robert W. Baral*The Anointed One*Pope Benedict XVI*8/30/2021 AD*p 1

A devotion, "Welcoming The Anointed One" by Pope Benedict XVI



<https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/benedict-xvi-says-he-will-not-be-silenced-and-warns-against-a-coming-global-humanistic-dictatorship>

"Welcoming The Anointed One" by Pope Benedict XVI

"Once again we find ourselves in the synagogue of Nazareth, the village where JESUS grew up, where everyone knew Him and His family. During the Sabbath liturgy He read a prophecy on The Messiah by Isaiah and announced its fulfillment, making it clear that This Word referred to Him.

The event puzzled the Nazarenes: on the one hand, they all spoke well of Him and wondered at The gracious Words which proceeded out of His Mouth [LUKE 4:22]. On the other hand, His fellow villagers knew Him too well: "He is one like us," they say, "His claim can only be a presumption." "Is not this Joseph's Son?" [LUKE 4:22] - as if to say: "What can a carpenter from Nazareth aspire to?"

Well-acquainted with this imperviousness which confirms the proverb, "No prophet is acceptable in his own country" [LUKE 4:24], to the people in the synagogue JESUS addressed Words that resonate like a provocation. He cites two miracles wrought by the great prophets Elijah and Elisha for people who were not Israelites in order to demonstrate that Faith is sometimes stronger outside Israel.

All the people got to their feet and drove Him away; and they even tried to push Him off a precipice. However, passing through the midst of the angry mob with supreme calmness, He went away.

At this point, it comes naturally to wonder, why ever did JESUS want to stir up this antagonism? At the outset the people admired Him and He might have been able to obtain a certain consensus. But this is exactly the point: JESUS did not come to seek the agreement of men and women, but rather - as He was to say to Pilate in the end - "to bear witness to The Truth." [JOHN 18:37]

The true prophet does not obey others as he does GOD, and puts himself at the service of The Truth, ready to pay in person. It is true that JESUS was a Prophet of Love, but [Divine] Love has Truth of its Own. Indeed, Love and Truth are two Names of The Same Reality, Two Names of GOD.

Believing GOD means giving up our own prejudices and accepting The actual Face in Which He revealed Himself: JESUS of Nazareth. On This Path Mary's attitude is enlightening. Who could be more closely acquainted than Her with The Humanity of JESUS?

She cherished This Mystery in Her Heart and was always and ever better able to accept it on the journey of Faith, even to The Night of The Cross and The Full Brilliance of The Resurrection. May Mary also always help us to continue faithfully and joyfully on this journey!" * AMEN.

LUKE 4:16-30

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTrCIYH1Yw4&list=RDvDF6aEpciVY&index=26>

16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto Him The Book of the Prophet Esaias. And when He had opened The Book, He found the place where it was written,

18 The SPIRIT of The LORD is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach The Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of The LORD.

20 And He closed The Book, and He gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him.

21 And He began to say unto them, This day is This Scripture fulfilled in your ears.

22 And all bare Him witness, and wondered at The gracious Words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

23 And He said unto them, Ye will surely say unto Me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Thy country.

24 And He said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29 And rose up, and thrust Him out of the city, and led Him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast Him down headlong.

30 But He passing through the midst of them went His Way,

"Welcoming The Anointed One." Pope Benedict XVI. The Magnificat, 8/30/2021. Meditation of the Day, p 424-425.]