

February 2013 Edition

FREQUENCY

Annunciation Radio: WNOC, FM 89.7 Bowling Green/Toledo
and WHRQ, FM 88.1 Sandusky

The newsletter for listeners and supporters of Annunciation Radio,
Catholic Radio for Northwest and North Central Ohio.

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Historic Announcement by Pope Benedict XVI Stuns the Church

On Monday, February 11, Pope Benedict XVI announced he was resigning from the papacy, to the great surprise of the Church and the world. The Holy Father's resignation, effective February 28, is the first such resignation in nearly 600 years.

The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo, has issued a statement regarding Pope Benedict's announcement. We have reprinted it here so that everyone can read it and gain a better perspective on the situation:

"The decision of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to relinquish the papal ministry for reasons of age and health fills us all with a sense of loss. We call the Pope our spiritual "Holy Father" with all that that implies for our life of faith in Christ. Pope Benedict has fulfilled that role most admirably, with total dedication, as a great pastor and teacher of the Faith. Our profound gratitude and prayerful support will remain with him always.

Now that the years have taken their toll, we do not begrudge him the repose he seeks for whatever time remains to him in this life. His resignation is itself a lesson in humility, courage and faith. We also pray now for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the election of a worthy Successor to Pope Benedict to fulfill the office entrusted to St. Peter to be the rock on which the Lord builds his Church."

From the Prez: A Reflection on Healing

By Deacon Mike Learned

In light of the recent Roe v. Wade anniversary and the growing Pro-Life movement, I would like to call attention to another victim in this terrible tragedy: the post-abortive mother. Many of these women have come to realize the gravity of what they have done and are living with a mixture of remorse, guilt and shame. Much of the Pro-life message today focuses on the babies who are being killed before ever taking a breath. To their mothers, these words only serve to deepen their sorrow and bring an even darker pall over their suffering hearts. Many struggle to forgive themselves.

Thanks be to God, there are several organizations who minister to these women, and I must applaud and recognize them for their efforts. Two of these are the *Silent No More* and *Project Rachel* groups. I urge anyone who knows a post-abortive mother, or is one herself, to get in touch with one of these groups.

The local *Project Rachel* ministry can be reached at 419-260-5811, or emailed at projectrachel@toledodiocese.org. To reach *Silent No More*, contact Joan Canning at 419-450-5624 or email joan@FFLNWO.org

And finally, I urge all of us to pray for these victims of abortion, and be more open to those we meet who may be suffering from this devastating and isolating decision.

We here at Annunciation Radio wish you a holy and fruitful Lent 2013, ever grateful for Christ's love and mercy!

"Catholic Witness" Conference Emphasizes Need for Renewal



Conference moderator, Al Kresta (seated), with Annunciation Radio Board members.

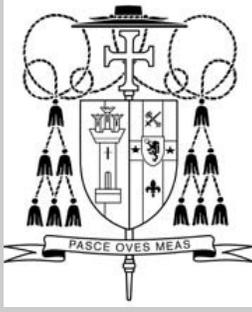
Last month, a conference sponsored by Ave Maria Radio challenged lay Catholics to a renewal of their faith life and their witness to society. The event, entitled "Catholic Witness in a Nation Divided," drew 720 participants from Michigan, Ohio, and around the country to the Eastern

Michigan University on January 12.

Al Kresta, president of Ave Maria Radio and host of the radio talk show *Kresta in the Afternoon*, moderated the conference. "I believe that the laity are the real power in the Church," he explained. "We are to guide others to an encounter with Christ."

Panelists addressed such politically charged issues as religious liberty, immigration, pro-life witness, and the nature of marriage. They stressed that the key to renewing society was to first renew our own faith life and that of our fellow Catholics. A vibrant, united Church may then bless the greater society.

Several Annunciation Radio listeners attended the conference. CD recordings of the talks are available for purchase from Ave Maria Radio, by phone at 734-930-4506 or online through orders@avemariaradio.net.



A Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI

The faithful are urged to pray the following prayer for Pope Benedict XVI and his successor:

"O Lord Jesus Christ, Supreme Pastor of Your Church, we thank you for the ministry of Pope Benedict XVI and the selfless care with which he has led us as Successor of Peter, and Your Vicar on earth.

Good Shepherd, who founded Your Church on the rock of Peter's faith and have never left Your flock untended, look with love upon us now, and sustain Your Church in faith, hope, and charity.

Grant, Lord Jesus, in Your boundless love for us, a new Pope for Your Church who will please You by his holiness and lead us faithfully to You, who are the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Amen."

* Written by Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop Willam Lori of Baltimorea

Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Annunciation Radio

March 16– Visit our table at the *Catholic Men's Conference* at the Seagate Convention Centre, 401 Jefferson Ave. in downtown Toledo (visit www.ToledoMensConference.com for Conference information, or call 419-244-6711 ext. 713).

April 8- Celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation, (our Patron Feast Day) at a special evening with EWTN's **Fr. Andrew Apostoli!** The event will take place at St. Rose Parish, 215 E. Front St. in Perrysburg. We'll begin with a Rosary at 6:30 p.m., followed by Holy Mass and a presentation by Fr. Apostoli. This is a free event and we would love to see you there!



April 10, 11, and 12– The *Spring Sharathon!* Listen each day -your parish priest may be on the air with us- and call in to pledge your support of support Annunciation Radio at 1-877-275-8098! Watch for more information on how you can help with this important event!

Check out all of the latest news and upcoming events at our website: www.annunciationradio.com

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