



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC  
METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH

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**STATEMENT OF METROPOLITAN BASIL  
ON THE ELECTION OF POPE BENEDICT XVI**

“It is with great joy and gratitude that we learned of the election of the new Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. It is a momentous occasion in the Catholic Church, which has been guided by the Holy Spirit through the College of Cardinals. The Universal Catholic Church, Eastern and Latin, rejoices on the election of a new Holy Father as Bishop of Rome. He is the successor of Saint Peter and is called to lead the Church in the new millennium with its myriad challenges and blessings.

“Pope Benedict XVI was elected on the eve of the Feast of Mid-Pentecost in the Byzantine Catholic Church. As we sing on that day: ‘When the feast was half completed, you cried out in the middle of the temple: All who thirst, come to me and drink, for whoever shall drink from this divine river shall receive the streams of my teaching from my side. Whoever sees me as the one sent by the divine Father shall be glorified with me. Therefore, we cry out to you: Glory to You, O Christ our God, for you have poured out on your servants the rich streams of your love for all.’

“Indeed, Christ our God has poured out on his servant, Pope Benedict XVI, the rich streams of God’s love for all. For this we are grateful.

“On behalf of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolitan Church sui iuris of Pittsburgh, we offer our esteem, good wishes and prayers that the Good Lord will give to Pope Benedict XVI good health, wisdom and holiness as he begins his Petrine ministry. ‘Many Blessed Years!’”