

America



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC WEEKLY

RECENT POSTS

[Rebutting Ryan](#)

[The Titanic, Mary and the Catholic Tradition](#)

[William Calley Lives](#)

[Who Pays for Contraceptives Under the Affordable Care Act?](#)

[A Worldly Mysticism: 'Look Around the Corner'](#)

BLOG ARCHIVE

[APRIL 2012](#)

[MARCH 2012](#)

[FEBRUARY 2012](#)

[JANUARY 2012](#)

[DECEMBER 2011](#)

[Earlier](#)

In All Things

Our group blog

[CONTRIBUTORS](#)

[COMMENTS POLICY](#)

[Email](#) | [Share](#)

[Pope to Resign in April?](#)

POSTED AT: THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012 02:05:50 PM

AUTHOR: [KEVIN CLARKE](#)

UPDATE: Oops. Heard a story was circulating today on this, but did not note the date on this story was from Sept.

Vatican Insider is [echoing an Italian daily report](#) that Pope Benedict XVI is planning to resign in April:

Journalist Antonio Socci has confirmed the same in the Italian daily, *Libero*.

"For now," Socci writes, "he is saying that this may be true (Joseph Ratzinger's personal assumption), but I hope the story does not reach the news. But this rumor is circulating high up in the Vatican and therefore deserves close attention. The Pope has not rejected the possibility of his resignation when he turns 85 in April next year."

Socci recalls that the assumption he will resign, without any hitches, was the same thing Ratzinger talked about in an interview in the book "Luce del mondo" (Light of the World), when, in response to a question by interviewer Peter Seewald, he said: "When a Pope arrives at a clear awareness that he no longer has the physical, mental, or psychological capacity to carry out the task that has been entrusted to him, then he has the right, and in some cases, even the duty to resign." Furthermore, in another passage, Benedict XVI wondered if he would be able to "withstand it all, just from the physical point of view."

Socci makes the following observation in today's edition of *Libero*: "Today, Pope Benedict seems to be in really good form; just the same, there's the issue of his age and just how much energy he has left." But the

writer/journalist also recalls another passage from the same book interview, which has to do with the attacks and controversies related to the pedophile priests' scandal: "When there is a great menace, one cannot simply run away from it. That is why, right now, it is definitely not the time to resign."

"It is actually at moments like these that one needs to resist and overcome difficult situations. One can only resign at a time when things are calm, or simply, when nothing more can be done about it. But one cannot run away right when the threat is alive and say, 'Let somebody else take care of it.'"

[COMMENTS \(22\)](#)

[Add Comments \(registration required\)](#)

Comments

1. Before he goes, I hope he makes one more international trip: to BEIJING, Taipei and TIBET! Now that would be a historical action worthy of the modern papacy. And it would smoke out the growing persecution of religion in China while the insolvent West is distracted by CHECKBOOK DIPLOMACY.

[Report comment](#)

Posted By [Craig B. McKee, Hong Kong](#) | Thursday, March 22, 2012 02:15:33 PM

2. I am going to pray a novena he stays. He might have his flaws (as we all do) but the college of cardinals looks scary these days. There is not a single intellectual among them and it would be hard to consider any of them more than glorified yes men. The Pope is right to be practical and to consider the good of the Church and not see himself in any messianic way (you know what I mean!) but at this moment in time he should use his experience to make the changes that are needed. He still has a lot of healing work to do around the world and his intellect appears unimpaired.

His best years may be ahead.

[Report comment](#)

Posted By [David Power](#) | Thursday, March 22, 2012 02:53:21 PM

3. I find this very hard to believe

[Report comment](#)

Posted By [Rick Fueyo](#) | Thursday, March 22, 2012 03:26:03 PM

4. If there is a resignation I'm for C. Schonborn Vienna.. aristocrats from birth are taught not to cow-tow. And are not afraid to make changes. and I hear progressive noises.

[Report comment](#)

Posted By [ed gleason](#) | Thursday, March 22, 2012 03:38:32 PM

Ed,

5. Wishful thinking. You will be more likely to see me in the Apostolic Palace than Cardinal Schoenborn. If it came true then Scola would be the European favourite and the forced grin himself would be the American option. The Latin world would have Scherer. If the Holy Spirit managed to break into the Sistine Chapel he would be whispering the name of Martin to one and all and I am not referring to Jim Martin.

[Report comment](#)

Posted By [David Power](#) | Thursday, March 22, 2012 04:04:26 PM

6. I wish he would retire and that someone like Schonborn would be elected. That seems doubtful though given that the pope has chosen as cardinals people who think like himself - we'd probably get a Benedict clone instead. I've been reading a novel in which a different pope was chosen instead of Benedict - a patriarch of Venice - who the cardinals think will do nothing but be a place holder, but he surprises them and does all the things a liberal would hope for, including visiting the the Great Synagogue in Rome to apologize for Pius XII and to announce the opening of the Vatican's secret archives dealing with the Holocaust. If only :)