

origins

CNS documentary service

Consistory Creates 19 New Cardinals

Pope Francis

On a feast day honoring the authority Jesus gave to St. Peter and his successors — the popes — Pope Francis created 19 new cardinals in the presence of retired Pope Benedict XVI. To the great surprise of most people present, the retired pope entered St. Peter's Basilica about 15 minutes before the new cardinals and Pope Francis. Pope Benedict's presence at the consistory Feb. 22, the feast of the Chair of Peter, marked the first time he had joined Pope Francis for a public prayer service in the basilica. Pope Benedict resigned Feb. 28, 2013, becoming the first pope in almost 600 years to do so. Before taking a seat and beginning the service, Pope Francis walked over to Pope Benedict, who removed his zucchetto to greet Pope Francis. The scene

“The church needs your compassion, especially at this time of pain and suffering for so many countries throughout the world.”

was repeated at the end of the consistory. The new cardinals, including Cardinal Gerald Lacroix of Quebec, Canada, and Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, England, publicly recited the creed and swore obedience to the pope and his successors before receiving from Pope Francis a red hat, a ring and the assignment of a “titular church” in Rome, becoming part of the clergy of the pope's diocese. After they received their red hats, each of the new cardinals walked over to Pope Benedict and greeted him. In his homily, Pope Francis focused on the new cardinals being called to follow Christ more closely, to build up the unity of the church and to proclaim the Gospel more courageously. The pope spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his homily follows, copyright © 2014 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

Jesus was walking ahead of them” (Mk 10:32).

At this moment too, Jesus is walking ahead of us. He is always before us. He goes ahead of us and leads the way. This is the source of our confidence and our joy: to be his disciples, to remain with him, to walk behind him, to follow him.

When we joined to concelebrate the first Mass in the Sistine Chapel, the first word the Lord proposed to us was “to walk,” to journey with him: to journey and then to build and to profess.

Today this same word is repeated but now as an action, an action of Jesus that is ongoing: “Jesus was walking.”

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