

THE CATHOLIC HERALD

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Pope pays tribute to Blessed Antonio Rosmini

BY STAFF REPORTER

WORLD NEWS

Ex-nuncio accuses Israel of breaking promises

ROME (Catholic Herald) - The Vatican's ex-nuncio to Israel, Cardinal Antonio Riboldi, has accused the Jewish state of breaking promises made to the Holy See regarding the return of the Holy Land to the Palestinians. He said that the Israeli government had failed to honour its commitments under the Oslo Accords, particularly regarding the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank and Gaza. Riboldi expressed deep disappointment and concern over the situation, stating that the Holy See remained committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.



Pope Benedict XVI is seen here with other officials during a public appearance.

WORLD BULLETIN

US bishops choose new conference president

WASHINGTON (Catholic Herald) - The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has elected Archbishop Desmond Tutu as its president for the next year. Tutu, a prominent South African anti-apartheid activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was chosen by a vote of 100 to 97. He will succeed Cardinal Bernardini, who served as president for the past two years.

Protesters force cathedral to close

ROME (Catholic Herald) - A group of protesters has forced the closure of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The protesters, who were demanding the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, gathered in front of the basilica and refused to leave. The police eventually used force to clear the area, and the basilica was closed for several hours.

Cardinal Bertone visits Argentina

ROME (Catholic Herald) - Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State, has visited Argentina to meet with Pope Benedict XVI. The visit is part of a series of meetings between the Pope and his Secretary of State, which are held regularly to discuss the state of the Church and the world.

EU-Turkey falling further apart

BRUSSELS (Catholic Herald) - Relations between the European Union and Turkey are falling further apart. The EU has expressed concern over Turkey's human rights record and its policies towards the Kurds. Turkey, in turn, has accused the EU of discrimination and has threatened to withdraw from the EU accession process.

Pope pays tribute to Blessed Antonio Rosmini

ROME (Catholic Herald) - Pope Benedict XVI has paid tribute to Blessed Antonio Rosmini, a 19th-century Italian philosopher and religious order founder. The Pope's words were written in his homily during the beatification ceremony in Novara. He praised Rosmini for his deep faith, his commitment to the poor, and his vision of a Church that is open to the world.

which they were written. In his homily, the Pope praised Rosmini for his deep faith, his commitment to the poor, and his vision of a Church that is open to the world. He also mentioned Rosmini's work in founding the Institute of Charity, which continues to serve the poor and the marginalized today.

Church aid to Chile quake victims

VALPARAISO (Catholic Herald) - The Church is providing aid to the victims of the earthquake in Chile. The Holy See has sent a delegation to the affected areas to provide spiritual support and practical assistance. The Church is also working to coordinate relief efforts with other organizations and the government.

Green light for World Youth Day after government pay out to racing industry

ROME (Catholic Herald) - The Vatican has given the go-ahead for World Youth Day 2013 in Poland. The Holy See has agreed to a deal with the Polish government, which will provide financial support for the event. The deal includes a payment to the racing industry, which has been a controversial issue in Poland.

POPE BENEDICT XVI has praised the life and example of a 19th-century Italian philosopher and religious order founder whose writings were still condemned by the Church only six years ago. Blessed Antonio Rosmini was a great priest and an "illustrious man of culture" who generously dedicated his life to harmonising the relationship between reason and faith, the Pope said on November 18, just a few hours before Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins led Rosmini's beatification ceremony in the northern Italian city of Novara.

In his midday Angelus prayer in St Peter's Square the Pope asked that Blessed Rosmini's example help the Church, "especially Italian ecclesial communities, [to] grow in the awareness that the light of human reason and grace, when they walk together, become a source of blessing for the human person and for society".

Blessed Rosmini, who lived from 1797 to 1855, founded the Institute of Charity - also known as the Rosminian Fathers - and the

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Spanish bishop sorry for Church's war role

MADRID (Catholic Herald) - A Spanish bishop has expressed regret over the Church's role during the Spanish Civil War. He said that the Church had been used as a tool of repression and that it had failed to stand up for the rights of the oppressed. He called for a more honest and open discussion of the Church's role in the war.

Eritrean state expels missionaries

ADDIS ABABA (Catholic Herald) - The Eritrean government has expelled several missionaries. The government accused the missionaries of engaging in proselytizing activities and of interfering in local politics. The missionaries, who were from various countries, were given a short period of time to leave the country.

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Congregation of the Rosminian Sisters of Providence. The road to his beatification was for a long time impeded by an 1887 Vatican condemnation of 40 proposals selected from works written by the Italian priest. But in 2001 the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, headed by the then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, declared that the positions condemned 114 years ago did not accurately reflect Blessed Rosmini's thinking or beliefs. Historians said the propositions were pulled out of the context in which they were written.

In his homily during the beatification Mass Cardinal Saraiva Martins said that elevating the Italian holy man to blessed status "will certainly help restore the friendship between reason and faith, between religion, ethical behaviour and the public service of Christians".

He said that Blessed Rosmini's message that reason and faith should be intertwined has "burning relevance" for today's world where there is "a steady eclipse of God and his providence". The cardinal also told *30 Giorni*, an Italian magazine, he was "truly happy" to see this "great, bright, prophetic thinker" finally elevated to "the glory of the altars". In an interview published in the magazine's September issue Cardinal Saraiva Martins said because the 1887 condemnation was issued posthumously Rosmini was not able to defend himself from allegations that were "pulled out of their context and therefore interpreted arbitrarily".

Two of Rosmini's books, *The Five Wounds of the Church* and *The Constitution According to Social Justice* were placed on the Index of Forbidden Books in 1849. But six years later a top-level Vatican review of all of his published works led to a judgment by Pope Pius IX that they were free from heterodoxy. While he was alive Blessed Rosmini's attempts to find a way to bridge the gap between Catholic philosophy and secular philosophy were seen as a dangerous concession to those who thought reason alone could lead people to truth and ultimate happiness. His popularity with the papal court was not enhanced by his belief that the unification of Italy was inevitable and the Vatican should loosen its temporal grip on the Papal States, supporting the formation of a confederation of Italian states in order to safeguard the independence of the papacy.

Cardinal Saraiva Martins told *30 Giorni* that Blessed Rosmini's ideas and opinions made him "an uncomfortable figure, above all for some circles of political power". He said *The Five Wounds of the Church* was "in some ways prophetic, ahead of its time, perhaps too much". "A prophet's destiny in the Bible but also, alas, in the history of the Church is often to be misunderstood and persecuted," he said.

Blessed Rosmini is seen by many as having helped inspire some of the reforms made during the Second Vatican Council.