



**Statement from
The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain
Bishop of Sioux Falls
February 11, 2013
On the Announced Resignation of Pope Benedict XVI**

It is with sadness yet with gratitude that I acknowledge the decision by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, to resign from office. The Holy Spirit, who guided his election in 2005, surely has guided his decision now, and will guide the election of his successor.

A teacher at heart, Pope Benedict XVI has, through written and spoken word, but especially by faithful witness, taught us to contemplate the higher things and to defend truth. He has always done so with integrity, humility and a special love for those most vulnerable. His courageous act today is but another example of his having the heart of a gentle shepherd protecting his flock.

I am especially grateful to him for having appointed me as Bishop of Sioux Falls. On behalf of all the faithful of our diocese we wish His Holiness a prayerful and peaceful retirement. Our prayer for him in the days ahead is that offered at the ordination of a bishop: May God, who has begun the good work in you, bring it to fulfillment.