

**TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH RATZINGER
BENEDICT XVI, POPE EMERITUS**



*Faithful Friend of Creator God
Sacred Faith was your lullaby
Sacred Books were your Pillow
Bavarian Catholic Piety your heart beat
Bavarian culture your armour.*

*Cat was your companion
In fact, you had love for nature
Flexibility was your mind work
Humility was your walking staff*

*You gazed at Virgin-Mary,
To be ceased by her discipleship
You celebrated Eucharist everyday
To be grounded in your Christology.*

*You shaped modern Catholicism
With your Biblical-Intellectual reflection
You were rigorous but not rigid
You were courageous but not arrogant.*

*Your Resignation surprised the world
Made us to see you as
Fallible- vulnerable human being
Which is our common humanity
For the glory of God's divinity.
Let us celebrate it every day.*

*Expert at Vatican II
Expressed everything in living-life giving Word
University was your play ground
Students were your wisdom dancers
I worked on your words "Caritas in Veritate"
Which satisfied my soul-longing.*

*Laid foundation for reflection on Church matters,
Making timely and courageous decisions that matter,
Some were satisfied, others were against,
However, it was what it is-Let it be.*

*Seeker of Truth, Love and Faith
Navigator of Church-boat as Benedict XI
To be the symbol of Unity and Charity
Allowing the heart to be pierced
by swords of criticism and incomprehension.*

*Dear ancestor-brother Ratzinger, Tell us...
Did you feel loneliness?
Did you experience crisis of faith and doubts?
Did you struggle with hardships?
Did you lose friendships?
Speak from your heart, oh Mozart of Theology.*

*You brought beauty to theology
You brought the "part" to the "whole"
You knew totalitarian harms,
So you totally abandoned yourself
in God-Father-Mother
through Joseph and Augustine.*

*By obligation you served in Hitler's army
By free choice, you embraced
The warriorship of Christ's Kingdom
Your faith is to be imitated
Your priesthood is to be celebrated.*

*Lord, I love you- were your last words
God called you to be our intercessor, forget not.
Let us tell you this: We Love you and we will miss you. Thank you very much.
Come, Oh faithful friend,
Let us have a beer and talk about our Saviour.*

Fr. Reegan, CMF