



providence COLLEGE

magazine

SUMMER 2013

WE WERE THERE

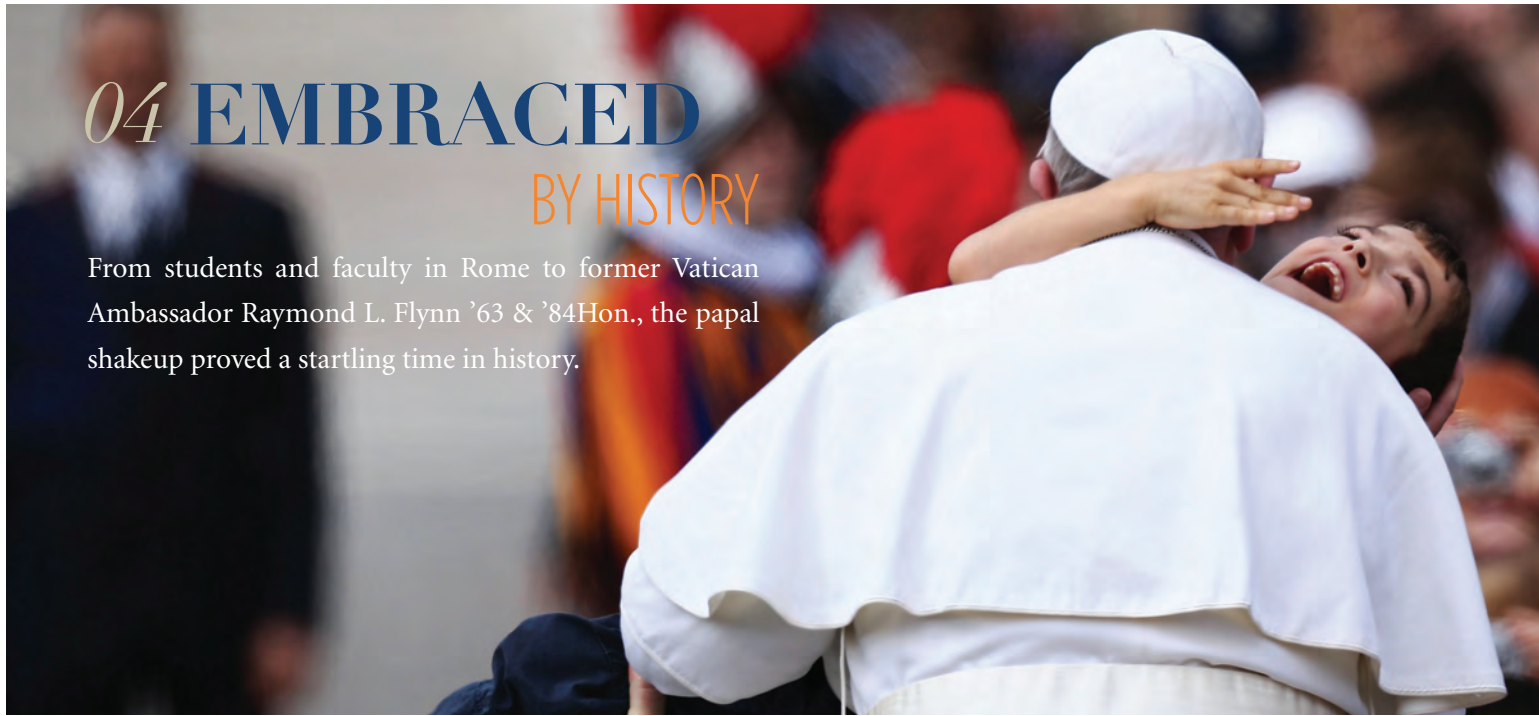
FRIARS WITNESS PAPAL HISTORY IN ROME

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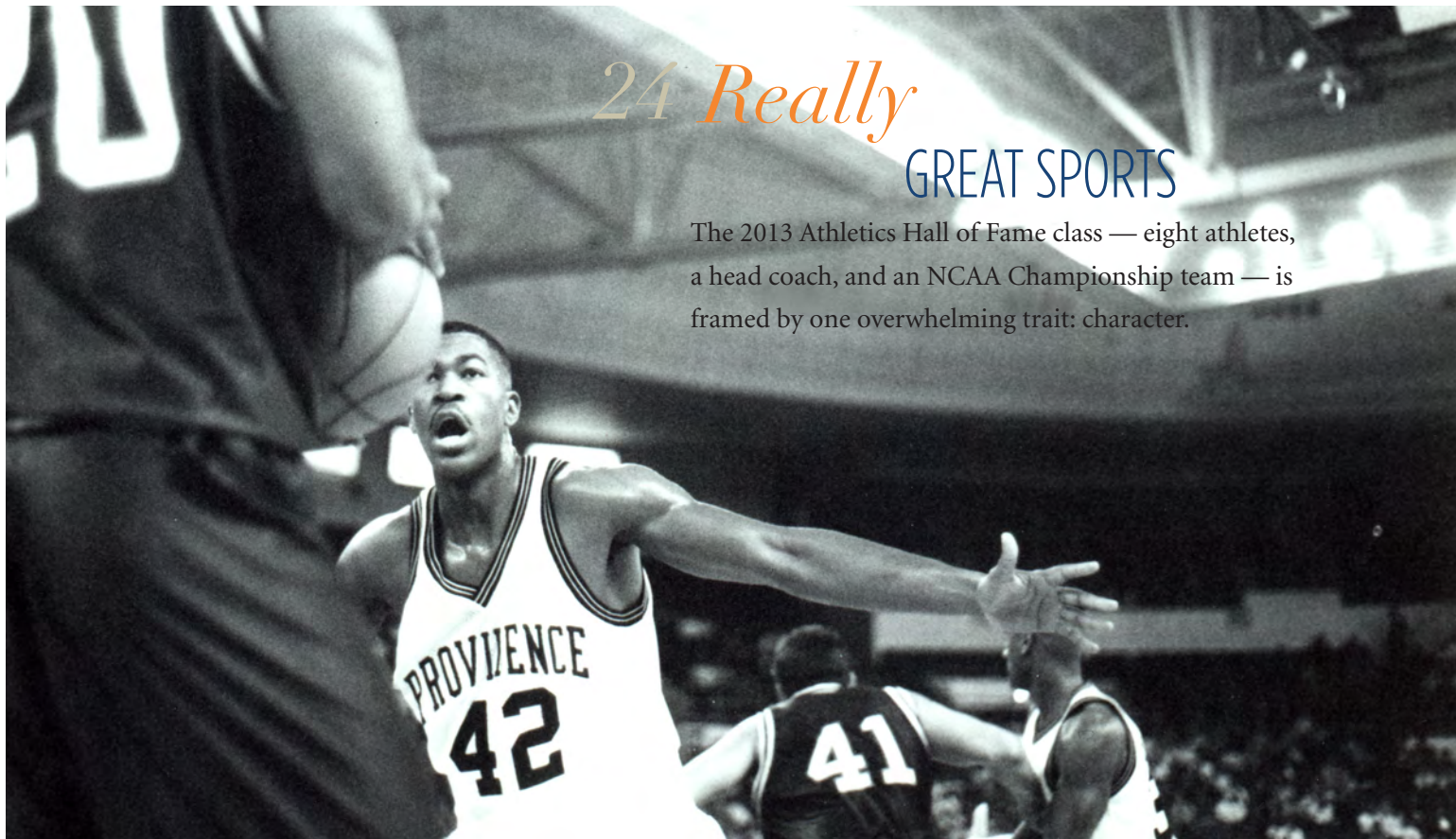
04 EMBRACED BY HISTORY

From students and faculty in Rome to former Vatican Ambassador Raymond L. Flynn '63 & '84Hon., the papal shakeup proved a startling time in history.



24 *Really* GREAT SPORTS

The 2013 Athletics Hall of Fame class — eight athletes, a head coach, and an NCAA Championship team — is framed by one overwhelming trait: character.



COVER FEATURE

EMBRACED BY HISTORY

By VICKI-ANN DOWNING

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE SUMMER 2013



In an image captured around the world, 8-year-old Dominic Gondreau is hugged by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square on Easter Sunday. (Dan Kitwood / Getty Images News / Getty Images)

ON EASTER SUNDAY MORNING

in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis swept 8-year-old Dominic Gondreau into his arms in an embrace that warmed the world.



That remarkable moment capped seven weeks in which PC students, faculty, and alumni — both at home and abroad — were witnesses to history.

Dominic's father, Dr. Paul Gondreau, professor of theology, was in Rome as the faculty resident director of PC's Center for Theology and Religious Studies. During the spring semester, he led 30 PC students in retracing the steps of St. Peter and St. Paul in Rome. They visited ancient basilicas and churches while studying the *New Testament* — then watched as a modern-day story unfolded, with the unexpected resignation of one pope and the fascinating election of another.

Others with PC connections were caught up in the drama as well. A Dominican theology professor visit-

ing Rome on Spring Break was photographed leaving a shop that displayed papal cassocks. A seminarian who is an alumnus experienced Pope Benedict's departure and Pope Francis' selection. On campus, professors provided expert analysis for the media, and students celebrated the choice of the new pope in the Campus Ministry Center.

Most amazing of all was the pope's embrace of Dominic, who has cerebral palsy and is one of five children of Gondreau and his wife, Christiana. Reflecting on the experience, Gondreau wrote: "Why is the whole world so moved by images of this embrace? A woman in the square, moved to tears by the embrace, perhaps answered it best when she said, 'You know, your son is here to show people how to love.'" ■

Top: Dr. Paul Gondreau, professor of theology, visited St. Peter's Square frequently during the papal transformation.

POPE BENEDICT XVI

(Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger)

- Born: April 16, 1927, in Germany
- A former professor of theology, he was appointed cardinal in 1977; prefect for the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith in 1981; dean of the College of Cardinals in 2002
- Elected pope on April 19, 2005, on the fourth ballot
- Chose the name Benedict in honor of St. Benedict, who wrote a rule of life for monks, and Pope Benedict XV, pope during World War I



The Pope Resigns

WITNESS: PROFESSOR JAMES F. KEATING

Pope Benedict XVI stunned the world on February 11 when he announced he would step down at the end of the month.

Almost immediately, the telephone rang at the home of Dr. James F. Keating, associate professor of theology. The news media wanted perspective from Keating, who teaches a course called The History and Theology of the Papacy and who has lived and taught in Rome.

Keating put the resignation in context. No pope had left office voluntarily since Celestine V in 1294 — and he was jailed by his successor.

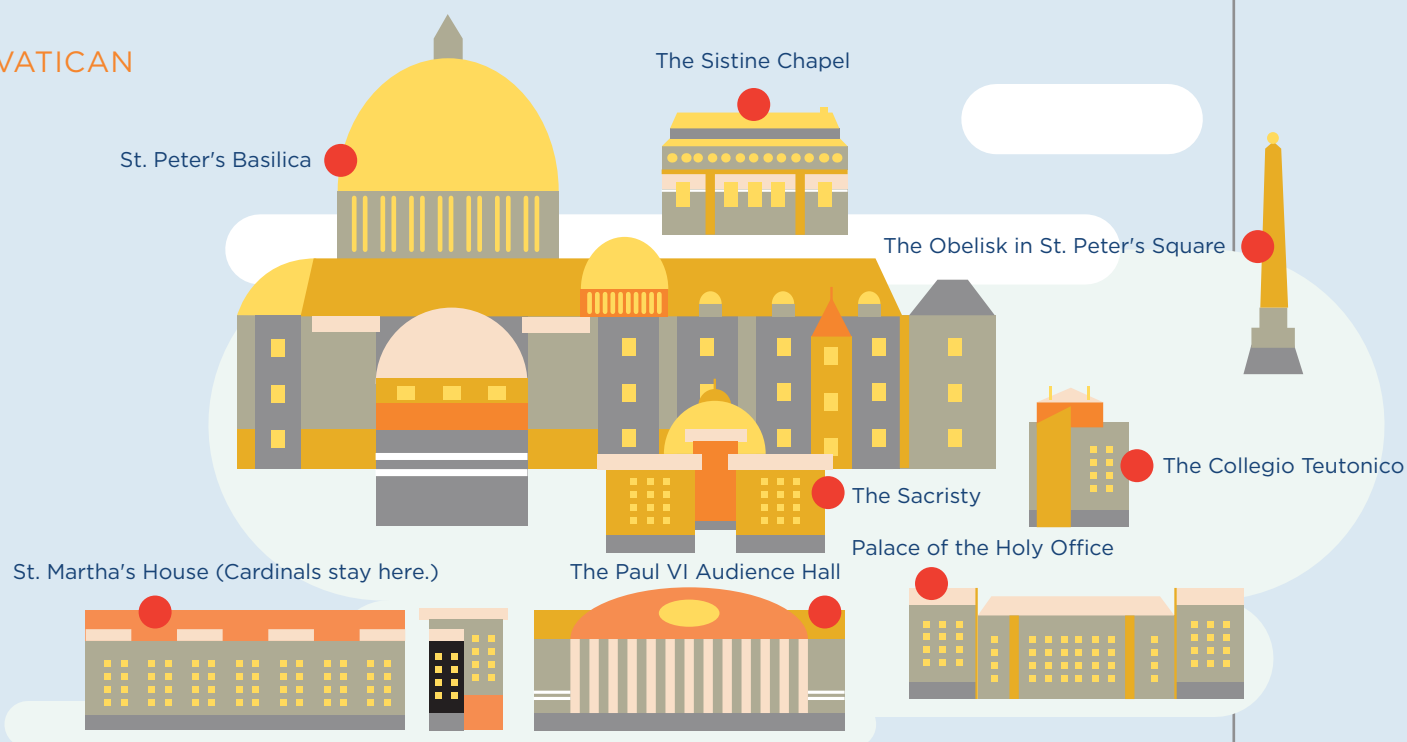
“It changes the nature of the papacy from lifetime appointment to elected office,” said Keating. “From now on, if a pope judges that he can no longer fulfill his ministry as effectively as a younger man could, he has a real option to retire.”

PRE-CONCLAVE GENERAL CONGREGATIONS

After Pope Benedict XVI ended his reign on February 28, the College of Cardinals gathered for a series of pre-conclave meetings known as the General Congregations during the week of March 4-8. At the end of the week, the cardinals set March 12 as the beginning of the papal conclave to elect a new leader of the Catholic Church.



THE VATICAN



March 4



Caught by the 'pope-arazzi'

WITNESS: REV. THOMAS PETRI, O.P.

Rev. Thomas Petri, O.P., assistant professor of theology, just wanted a new hat. In Rome for Spring Break, he stopped by the Gammarelli tailor shop to buy a biretta — the black square cap worn as academic dress by those with doctoral degrees.

For the first time, Gammarelli's window displayed white woolen cassocks handmade for the eventual pope in three sizes — tall, medium, and small.

As Father Petri paid the cashier, a line of reporters and cameramen, in Rome for the papal conclave, waited outside. "I could see them all out there, ready to get a shot," said Father Petri. "So I straightened out my habit, made sure I had a sense of purpose in my walk, and just walked

out to photographs and flashbulbs, like at some movie premiere." The photo of Father Petri leaving the tailor shop was transmitted around the world. Father Petri appreciated its significance. Tradition holds that it was the Dominican Pope Pius V who introduced white robes for popes in 1566. "A lot of people know that story," said Father Petri, so "a Dominican in his white habit next to three white papal cassocks" resonated with them.

The Cardinals Vote

VOTING BEGINS IN THE SISTINE CHAPEL

1 Ballot cards are distributed and each cardinal must clearly write in a candidate's name, changing his handwriting beyond recognition. Each ballot bears these words: "I elect as Supreme Pontiff," followed by a blank space for a name.

2 Every cardinal folds his ballot and proceeds to the altar, holding the paper high in the air for the rest to see, and then drops it into the ballot box.

3 A count is taken. The counted ballots are pierced and strung on a thread.

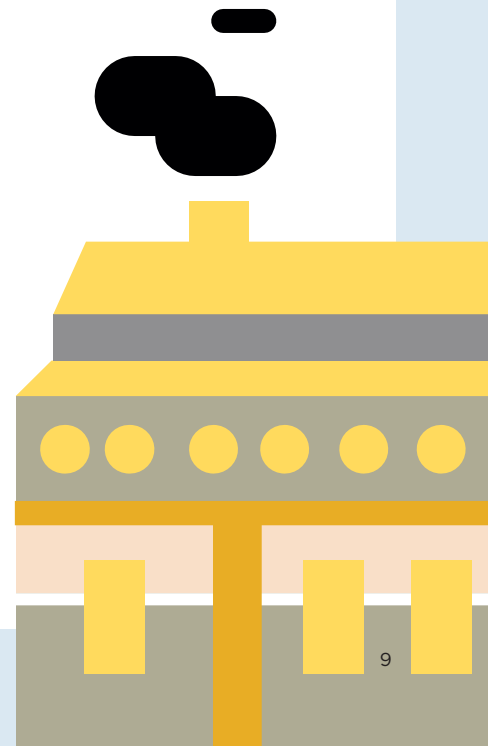
4 One round of voting is done on the first day of the conclave. During the subsequent days (unless a pope was elected on the first day), four rounds are held each day, two in the morning and two in the afternoon.

5 After each voting round, the ballots are burned in the special fireplace in the presence of the conclave.

A POPE needs two-thirds of the vote to be elected (or two-thirds plus one, if the number of voters is not divisible by three).

WHEN NONE of the candidates receives enough votes after a round of balloting, the ballots are burned, and black smoke issues from a copper flue above the Sistine Chapel. When a pope is elected, the smoke is white.

IN EARLIER DAYS, damp straw was used to turn the smoke black, but in the modern era, the Vatican uses a secret mixture of chemicals, contained in cartridges, to create the differences in color. Two stoves are connected to the single flue: one to burn the ballots, and one to burn the cartridge.



White Smoke in St. Peter's Square

WITNESS: ALEXANDRA M. STEADMAN '14

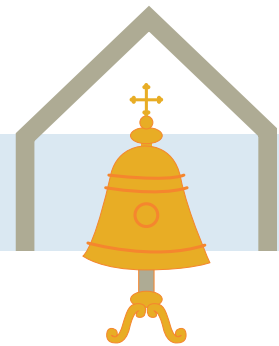
Alexandra M. Steadman '14 (Medina, Minn.) was one of 30 students who spent the semester studying at PC's Center for Theology and Religious Studies in Rome. Studying theology while visiting cathedrals and historic sites, the PC students also attended Pope Benedict XVI's final papal audience.

Steadman was in St. Peter's Square when Pope Francis was named. She remembers the crowd screaming when the black smoke turned white; the frantic sprint toward St. Peter's Basilica as reporters tried to get the students' reaction, and the students tried to call their parents and friends; and the bells all over Rome ringing out the news. "The most incredible experience for me was when the new pope asked us all to pray with him," said Steadman. "The once-rowdy crowd fell absolutely silent. You could hear a pin drop. The world has never felt so small to me. People all over the world were gathered in one square for one reason, all connected by the faith. It was a night I will never forget."

WITNESS: NATHAN J. RICCI '12

Nathan J. Ricci '12, a seminarian at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, waited two hours in the rain in St. Peter's Square to check the color of the smoke emerging from the Sistine Chapel. He joined the crowd singing hymns while awaiting the announcement that the new pope was Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina.

"After a brief moment, the window opened ... and in front of us stood Pope Francis, successor of St. Peter and Vicar of Christ," said Ricci. "It is nearly impossible to describe the emotion in the crowd. God had given us a simple, humble man, a man we will come to know and love. I looked up and thought, 'Thanks be to God — we have a pope!' What a gift for the Church and for the world."



Bells Ring on Campus

WITNESS: BEATRIZ FORSTER '13

In the morning, Beatriz Forster '13 (Bethesda, Md.) was notified she had been accepted to join the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville, Tenn. Around 2 p.m., she headed to St. Dominic Chapel to pray. As she walked through the doors, the chapel bells began ringing.

"My first thought was, 'Just like a wedding,'" said Forster. "Then I thought, 'It can't be a new pope already!'" Forster went downstairs to the Campus Ministry Center to watch the announcement on a large-screen TV with about 65 students. When the new pope was named, they cheered.

"It's just an incredible day," said Forster. "I'm never going to forget this day!"



'The Right Temperament'

WITNESS: RAYMOND L. FLYNN '63 & '84HON.

Raymond L. Flynn '63 & '84Hon., U.S. ambassador to the Vatican from 1993-1997, knew Pope John Paul II (pictured above) and Pope Benedict XVI personally. During the papal conclave in 2005, he twice met Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio.

"Pope Francis is a remarkable man," said Flynn. "He's completely a man of humility as well as intelligence and brilliance — a brilliant Jesuit priest. In these very difficult times for the Catholic Church worldwide, he's the ideal person" to lead.

Pope Francis comes "from the outside," said Flynn. He was not a member of the *Curia* — the central governing body of the Church.

"He's not part of the *status quo*," said Flynn. "He knows enough about what's going on to be able to come in and make administrative reforms and changes in the radically changing environment in the world today.

"Some naysayers are saying, at 76 years old, does he have the stamina, does he have the strength? God will make that happen. I do know that he's got the right temperament, the right personality. I feel as excited about him leading the Catholic Church as I do about anybody leading the Catholic Church at any time in my life."

Justice and Jesus

WITNESS: REV. DAVID T. ORIQUE, O.P.

"I don't think we're going to see red designer slippers," said Rev. David T. Orique, O.P., assistant professor of history (pictured below), the morning after Pope Francis' election.

Father Orique, whose academic specialty is Latin America, was referring to the handmade red leather shoes traditionally worn by popes. Before Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio left for Rome, his shoes were so shabby that friends bought him new ones, according to a Vatican Radio report.

"He'll take a much more humble approach, less pomp," said Father Orique. "I think we will see honesty, simplicity, and humility."

Father Orique has traveled four times to Argentina, a country the size of India with the population of California.

"He's theologically conservative but also strong on social and economic justice for people on the margins of society," said Father Orique. "I think he sees Jesus in the materially poor and the people who are spiritually poor, too."

