

## Pope Benedict's seven last minute moves

Joshua J. McElwee | Feb. 19, 2013 NCR Today  
Benedict Resigns

With a week and a half left until his expected formal renunciation of the papal office, Pope Benedict XVI is essentially Catholicism's first lame duck leader.

Until 8:00 PM Rome time Feb. 28, Benedict is fully on the job as supreme pastor of the Roman Catholic church. Until that moment, he has near-supreme power to [direct the Roman curia](#) [1].

Over at Slate, Jessica Roake imagines just what Benedict [might](#) [2]decree in the last seven days of his pontificate.

My personal favorites, from Roake:

- Feb. 22: *Flan non est acceptabilis mensa secunda* (flan is not an acceptable dessert). The pope tests the faith of Latin and South American Catholics with the controversial NO FLAN edict, adding a paternalistic *?Vos adepto quid vos adepto vobis et non adepto turbatis?* (?you get what you get, and you don?t get upset?) with unyielding resolve. Bavarian Cream declared God?s Dessert of Choice.
- Feb. 24. *Islam eam, non tag terga*. Pope Benedict enacts a puzzling edict directed at the Muslim faith: *?Islam is IT. No tag-backs.? Asked to clarify in light of his often inflammatory remarks about the religion, the Pope simply giggles, ?Non tag terga, non tag terga!?*

Yours?

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### Links:

[1] <http://ncronline.org/node/44946>

[2]

[http://www.slate.com/articles/life/low\\_concept/2013/02/new\\_saints\\_and\\_decrees\\_from\\_lame\\_duck\\_pope\\_benedict.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/life/low_concept/2013/02/new_saints_and_decrees_from_lame_duck_pope_benedict.html)