



Members of the faithful fall silent at the announcement Saturday in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican that the 84-year-old pope had died.

AP

# ANNOUNCEMENT SILENCES CROWD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The crowd of many thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square went suddenly silent when a Vatican official announced Pope John Paul II had died.

Then they started to clap. It is an Italian tradition by which mourners show their appreciation for important figures who have passed away. Many wept as others tried to comfort them.

A group of youths began to sing, "Hallelujah, he will rise again," as one strummed a guitar. Others resumed reciting the rosary; a priest raised a Polish flag partly draped with a black cloth.

Bells tolled at the Vatican and across Rome as flags of the Vatican, Italy and the European

## Vatican bells toll; flags lowered to half-staff across Europe

Union were lowered to half-staff.

Giulio La Rosa, a 23-year-old student in Rome, burst into tears.

"I'm not a believer, but I came here because I believe in him as a builder of freedom," he said.

About three hours after the death, the crowd again broke into applause for several minutes, and a cleric leading the faithful in prayers shouted from the steps of St. Peter's Basilica: "Viva il Papa!", or "Long live the pope!"

"He was a marvelous man. Now he's no longer suffering," pilgrim Concetta Sposato said tearfully. She had been on her

way to St. Peter's to pray when she heard of his death.

"My father died last year. For me, it feels the same," said Elisabetta Pomacalca, a 25-year-old Peruvian who lives in Rome.

Katie Brennan, a student from the University of Maryland, said she looked around in wonder at the crowd.

"All the different people, from different races and different religions, that are all here for the same reason: to respect the passing of someone who's done a lot for this world," she said.

Simone Bellato, a 22-year-old student, sat cross-legged on the cobblestones smoking a cigarette following the announce-

ment. He was surrounded by a display of offerings with lit candles, prayer cards, rosaries and a bouquet of lilies.

"For once, while the pope was suffering, the whole world prayed together. Catholics, Jews, Muslims, the Orthodox, only he could have done it," Bellato said.

Everywhere candles flickered in St. Peter's Square. A group formed a cross on the cobblestones using small prayer candles. Others melted the candles directly onto the paving stones or placed them on the edge of the fountains and pedestals of streetlights.

Some used their wax to melt letters of affection to the pope

onto the pavement, others left behind rose petals and bouquets.

"I haven't lost a pope but THE pope, the only pope I ever knew in my whole life," Cristiana Bianco, 24, said.

Traffic on the streets leading to the Vatican was brought to a standstill as thousands more people tried to reach St. Peter's Square.

Officials, meanwhile, estimated early Sunday that the crowd in and around St. Peter's had swelled to about 100,000 as people streamed down the boulevard leading to the square.

Earlier in the day, officials had begun preparing for the elaborate rituals marking a

pope's death and for accommodating the tens of thousands of pilgrims expected to converge on Rome.

Workmen in cherry-pickers began dismantling the canopy that normally stands on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica to shield the pope from the sun during outdoor Masses. One workman told The Associated Press the space had to be cleared for John Paul's funeral.

Portable toilets and ambulances appeared in greater numbers near the Vatican on Saturday, and the city transport system said it was increasing service on bus and subway lines stopping at St. Peter's. Some city buses began skipping intermediate stops to rush pilgrims straight from Rome's main train station to St. Peter's Square.

## New pope will come during careful ritual

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The death of Pope John Paul II triggered a carefully scripted ritual that will culminate in the election of a new leader for the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics.

Rome's church bells tolled in mourning. Vatican flags were lowered to half-staff. Heavy chains blocked the door of the papal palace to signify the interregnum has begun.

It was the start of a process outlined by John Paul in a 1996 document, "Universi Dominici Gregis" ("Of the Lord's Whole Flock"), which lays out procedures for Vatican officials in handling a pope's death and sets the voting rules for selecting a successor.

In announcing John Paul's death Saturday night, the Vatican said the document's provisions "have been put in motion."

The papal chamberlain becomes the most important Vatican official during the period without a pontiff. He will destroy the symbols of the pope's authority: the fisherman's ring and the dies used to make lead seals for apostolic letters.

He also seals off the pope's bedroom and study, takes charge of the Holy See's property and arranges the funeral and the conclave at which the College of Cardinals will elect a pope.

The cardinals govern the church until a new pope is chosen, but their powers are limited.

Almost all cardinals heading Vatican departments, including the secretary of state, lose their jobs when a pope dies. Power centers inside the Vatican shift and dissolve as the cardinals turn their attention to their

most important job — electing a pope.

Since 1059, the cardinals have had the sole responsibility for choosing the pope. Although these "princes of the church" are free to elect any baptized Catholic male, the last time a non-cardinal was elevated to the papacy was 1378.

The pope is buried from four to six days after his death. The conclave must begin between 15 and 20 days after the pontiff dies and is open only to cardinals under age 80.

They meet daily during the conclave. At their first meeting, they take a solemn oath to "maintain rigorous secrecy" about the papal election. Anyone who violates this oath risks excommunication.

The word "conclave" comes from the Latin for "with a key," referring to a practice that arose in the 13th century.

In 1243, the Senate and people of Rome broke a year-and-a-half deadlock by locking the cardinals up until they finally elected a new pope. In 1271, the cardinals were not only locked up, but were put on a diet of bread and water until they could agree.

The pope chosen in 1271, Gregory X, formalized these drastic measures as conclaves. Despite his efforts, 29 subsequent conclaves lasted more than a month. But no conclave since 1831 has lasted more than four days; the one in 1978 at which John Paul II was elected went just 24 hours.

Although conclaves have grown shorter in modern times, John Paul changed the voting rules to make deadlocks virtually impossible. His rules make a simple majority sufficient to elect a pope if no one gets the traditional two-thirds majority after about 30 rounds of voting.



Cardinals stand in prayer inside the Sistine Chapel in this 1978 photo, when they elected the man who became John Paul II.

AP

## Cardinals stream toward the Vatican

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — From every corner of the world, the red-robed "princes" of the Roman Catholic Church headed toward the Vatican on Saturday to prepare for the secret duty they were appointed to carry out: gathering in the Sistine Chapel to elect the successor for the late Pope John Paul II.

It's a process steeped in centuries-old rituals and arcane traditions, such as precise rules for how to bind together the tallied papal ballots with a needle and thread. But modern forces also are at play — including stronger voices from outside Europe among the College of Cardinals that could shape the outcome of the conclave.

"This pope has so broadened

the outreach and meaning of the papacy," said Jo Renee Formicola, a professor at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., who has studied Vatican trends. "It's clear the cardinals will have to pay attention to this."

It's the nature of their role. The main task of a cardinal, a title granted by the pope, is the papal selection. Privately, they assess the constantly reshuffled list of "papabile," the Italian word for likely papal candidates.

The Roman Catholic's most visible trend is its growing strength outside Europe — and this is reflected in the very makeup of the next conclave, bettering the prospects of Latin American or African candidates like Cardinal Francis Arinze, a

Vatican-based Nigerian, or Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes.

Asians, Africans and Latin Americans account for 44 of the cardinals under 80 years old — the condition for participating in the conclave and voting for the pope — compared with 58 from Europe. The United States, which could play an important swing role, has 11 cardinals among the 117 papal electors — the largest group that will ever decide on the next pontiff when the conclave begins later this month.

It's almost certain the next pope will be among them: although technically the cardinals can select any baptized male Roman Catholic, the last time they looked outside their elite group was 1378.

Many cardinals have been living here working in Vatican posts. Others cut short trips or canceled plans and began heading to Rome.

The papal electors will begin daily pre-conclave meetings. They will swear fidelity to the codes of secrecy, at the implicit risk of excommunication. All the cardinals then will come together in public next week for the papal funeral Mass, which will be led by the dean of the College of Cardinals. The others will take their places around the papal coffin in order of seniority.

The electors next assemble — no later than two weeks after the funeral, but no sooner than nine days after — to pick a successor to lead the world's 1.2 billion Catholics.