



VICAR FOR CLERGY  
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

Dear Father,

The Lenten Day of Recollection will be on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at St. Joseph's Seminary, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., which is a change from the notice you received earlier. The day will be led by Father Robert Imbelli, who will discuss the teachings of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and their impact on our ministry in the midst of the many challenges we face. Pope Francis compared the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict to losing a grandfather in the family that is the Church. The Holy Father states in his preface to the posthumous volume of Pope Emeritus Benedict's spiritual reflections *God is Always New*:

*Benedict XVI did theology on his knees in prayer. His explanation of matters of faith was carried out with the devotion of a man who totally surrendered himself to God and who, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, sought an ever-greater understanding of the mystery of Jesus, who fascinated him from his youth.*

Father Imbelli is a renowned theologian and author, whose understanding and insight into the magisterium of Pope Emeritus Benedict will provide much food for Lenten thought. The schedule for the day will be different from that of recent days of recollection and, while it may be somewhat inconvenient with morning funerals in the parish and travel, makes it possible for us to benefit from Father Imbelli's insights. I appreciate your understanding.

The schedule will be:

10 – 10:45 a.m. Opening Conference  
10:45 – 11:00 break  
11:00-11:45 – Second Conference  
Noon – Exposition and Confessions  
1 p.m. Benediction

Hopefully you will be able to join for the day, despite the time change. The fraternal support and encouragement of taking time together is what we need these days.

Gratefully,

Most Reverend Edmund J. Whalen  
Vicar for Clergy