



ZE12040209 - 2012-04-02

Permalink: <http://www.zenit.org/article-34559?l=english>

## Vatican Praises Cuba's Plan to Make Good Friday a Holiday

### Pope Asked Castro Government to Recognize Christian Feast

VATICAN CITY, APRIL 2, 2012 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- While Benedict XVI was in Cuba last week, he asked the government to recognize Good Friday as a holiday, a request that the Castro administration accepted.

Vatican spokesman Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi welcomed Cuba's announcement.

"The fact that the Cuban authorities have immediately accepted the request made by the Holy Father to President Raul Castro, declaring next Good Friday a holiday, is certainly a very positive sign," Father Lombardi said. "The Holy See hopes that this will facilitate participation in religious celebrations and favor a happy Easter holiday. It also hopes that the Holy Father's visit may continue to produce fruits for the good of the Church and of all Cubans."

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