

# Conclave Picture Cloudy

## No Front-Runner In Vote For Pope

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Cardinals enter the Sistine Chapel on Tuesday to elect the next pope amid more upheaval and uncertainty than the Catholic Church has seen in decades: There's no front-runner, no indication how long voting will last and no sense that a single man has what it takes to fix the church's many problems.

On the eve of the vote, cardinals offered wildly different assessments of what they're looking for in a pope and how close they are to a decision. It was evidence that Benedict XVI's surprise resignation has continued to destabilize the church leadership and that his final appeal for unity may go unheeded, at least in the early rounds of voting.

Still, the buzz in the papal stakes swirled around Cardinal Angelo Scola, an Italian seen as favored by cardinals hoping to shake up the powerful Vatican bureaucracy, and Brazilian Cardinal Odilo Scherer, a favorite of Vatican-based insiders intent on preserving the status quo.

Cardinals held their final closed-door debate Monday over whether the church needs more of a manager to clean up the Vatican's bureaucratic mess or a pastor to inspire the 1.2 billion faithful in times of crisis. The fact that not everyone got a chance to speak was a clear indication that there's still unfinished business going into the first round of voting.

"This is a great historical moment but we have got to do it properly, and I think that's why there isn't a real rush to get into things," Cardinal Wilfrid Fox Napier from South Africa said as he left the session Monday.

None of that has prevented a storm of chatter over who's ahead in the race.

Scola is affable and Italian, but not from the Italian-centric Vatican bureaucracy called the Curia. That gives him clout with those seeking to reform the nerve center of the Catholic Church that has been discredited by revelations of leaks and complaints from cardinals in the field that Rome is inefficient and unresponsive to their needs.

Scherer seems to be favored by Latin Americans and the Curia. The Brazilian has a solid handle on the Vatican's finances, sitting on the governing commission of the Vatican bank, the Institute for Religious Works, as

## Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and his predecessors

*Citing his advanced age and frail health, the 85-year-old former pontiff resigned as head of the Roman Catholic Church. At 78, Benedict was one of the oldest new popes in history when elected in 2005.*



	Age when elected	Offices held in Catholic hierarchy	Other church service	Hometown
<b>Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI</b> (Joseph Ratzinger) Elected 2005	<b>78</b>	Dean of College of Cardinals; archbishop of Munich	Head of Vatican office that enforces orthodoxy	Markt am Inn, Germany
<b>Pope John Paul II</b> (Karol Wojtyla) 1978-2005	<b>58</b>	Archbishop of Krakow, Poland; bishop; parish priest	Pastor to refugees in France	Krakow, Poland
<b>Pope John Paul I</b> (Albino Luciani) 1978	<b>65</b>	Archbishop of Venice, Italy; bishop; parish priest	Seminary official	Forno de Canale, Italy
<b>Pope Paul VI</b> (Giovanni Montini) 1963-1978	<b>65</b>	Archbishop of Milan, Italy	Vatican diplomat, administrator	Sarezzo, Italy
<b>Pope John XXIII</b> (Angelo Roncalli) 1958-1963	<b>76</b>	Archbishop of Venice, Italy; parish priest	Vatican diplomat to Turkey, Greece, France	Sotto il Monte, Italy
<b>Pope Pius XII</b> (Eugenio Pacelli) 1939-1958	<b>73</b>	Archbishop of Sardi"; bishop	Vatican diplomat and secretary of state	Rome
<b>Pope Pius XI</b> (Achille Ratti) 1922-1939	<b>64</b>	Archbishop of Milan, Italy	Vatican diplomat to Poland and librarian	Milan, Italy
<b>Pope Benedict XV</b> (Giacomo della Chiesa) 1914-1922	<b>54</b>	Archbishop of Bologna, Italy	Vatican diplomat to Spain	Genoa, Italy

\*Titular (honorary) position

Source: Vatican, Columbia Encyclopedia, Encyclopaedia Britannica, MCT Photo Service

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well as the Holy See's main budget committee.

As a non-Italian, the archbishop of Sao Paolo would be expected to name an Italian as secretary of state — the Vatican No. 2 who runs day-to-day affairs at the Holy See — another plus for Vatican-based cardinals who would want one of their own running the shop.

The pastoral camp seems to be focusing on two Americans, New York archbishop Timothy Dolan and Boston archbishop O'Malley. Neither has Vatican experience. Dolan has admitted his Italian isn't strong — seen as a handicap for a job in which the lingua franca of day-to-day work is Italian.

Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet is well-known and well-respected by many cardinals, stemming from his job at the important Vatican office that vets bishop appointments; less well known is that Ouellet has a lovely voice and is known to belt out French folk songs on occasion.

If the leading names fail to reach the 77 votes required for victory in the first few rounds of balloting, any number of surprise names could come to the fore as alternatives.

Those include Cardinal Luis Tagle, archbishop of Manila. He is young — at age 55 the second-youngest cardinal voting — and was only named a cardinal last November. While his management skills haven't been tested in Rome, Tagle — with a Chinese-born mother — is seen as the face of the church in Asia, where Catholicism is growing.

Whoever he is, the next pope will face a church in crisis: Benedict XVI spent his eight-year pontificate trying to revive Catholicism amid the secular trends that have made it almost irrelevant in places like Europe, once a stronghold of Christianity. Clerical sex abuse scandals have soured many faithful on their church, and competition from rival evangelical churches in Latin America and Africa has drawn souls away.

### AP Analysis

## Karzai Hits U.S. Anew, But Ties Remain

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — The troubled U.S. alliance with Afghan President Hamid Karzai hit a new low with his startling accusation that America is colluding with Taliban insurgents to keep Afghanistan weak. But with President Barack Obama committed to two more years of U.S. combat, Karzai appears to believe he can have it both ways — gain favor at home with anti-American rhetoric and still enjoy foreign military protection.

And he is probably right. The Obama administration believes that it must stay the course, gradually handing off security responsibility to Afghan forces and then ending the combat mission in December 2014. Departing sooner would risk a collapse of the government, a return to power for the Taliban and perhaps a boost for al-Qaida.

Just last month, Obama announced that he would bring home 34,000 U.S. troops in the coming year, leaving about 32,000 for a final withdrawal in 2014. He is expected to announce soon a post-2014 military mission for several thousand American troops, even though he has said that by then "our war in Afghanistan will be over."

"Beyond 2014, America's commitment to a unified and sovereign Afghanistan will endure," he said Feb. 12, though the nature of that commitment will shift to training Afghan forces and pursuing remnants of al-Qaida and its affiliates.

But the latest string of Karzai moves — coupled with the resumption of deadly Afghan army and police attacks on their supposed American partners — could raise new questions about the wis-

dom of prolonging a war that has cost the U.S. more than 2,000 lives and hundreds of billions of dollars, with no decisive end in sight.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., called Karzai's comments "despicable" and "beyond disgusting." He said they show that "it is time to bring our troops home."

In his eight years as president, Karzai has often upset the Americans by questioning their motives. In June 2011, for example, he likened the Americans to occupiers, saying they were not in Afghanistan to help Afghans but were present "for their own purposes, for their own goals, and they're using our soil for that." Karl Eikenberry, the American ambassador in Kabul at the time, called the remarks hurtful and inappropriate.

A year earlier, Karzai threatened to quit the political process and join the Taliban if he continued to come under outside pressure to reform. He also accused Americans of conspiring against him in the 2009 elections.

Nick Mills, a Boston University professor who wrote a 2007 book on Karzai, said Monday the Afghan president's latest broadside, alleging U.S. collusion with the Taliban, might have been his way of testing the new U.S. defense secretary, Chuck Hagel.

"But when Karzai resorts to these wild, irrational outbursts it may be simply that he's been driven to irrationality by the pressures of the job," Mills said. "I have said for some time that he was never the strong leader Afghanistan needed, and these outbursts underscore his weakness. I think he operates in panic mode at times."

Karzai's term ends next year, and he has said he won't run in the election scheduled for spring 2014.

### Jury Convicts Kilpatrick Of Corruption

DETROIT (AP) — Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was convicted Monday of corruption charges and then sent to jail to await his prison sentence in yet another dramatic setback for a man who once was among the nation's youngest big-city leaders.

Jurors convicted Kilpatrick of a raft of crimes, including racketeering conspiracy, which carries a maximum punishment of 20 years behind bars. He was portrayed during a five-month trial as an unscrupulous politician who took bribes, rigged contracts and lived far beyond his means while in office until fall 2008.

Kilpatrick wore a surprised, puzzled look at times as U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds read the jury's verdict: guilty of 24 charges, not guilty on three and no consensus on three more. Kilpatrick declined to speak to reporters as he left the courthouse.

Four hours later, he was handcuffed and led to jail after prosecutors asked the judge to revoke his bond. Edmunds said it was a "close call" but agreed that the scale under federal law tipped in favor of the government.

Prosecutors said Kilpatrick ran a "private profit machine" out of Detroit's City Hall. The government presented evidence to show he got a share of the spoils after ensuring that Bobby Ferguson's excavating company was awarded millions in work from the water department.

### North Korea Cancels Armistice

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean state media said Monday that Pyongyang had carried through with a threat to cancel the 60-year-old armistice that ended the Korean War, as it and South Korea staged dueling war games amid threatening rhetoric that has risen to the highest level since North Korea rained artillery shells on a South Korean island in 2010.

Enraged over the South's joint military drills with the United States and recent U.N. sanctions, Pyongyang has piled threat on top of threat, including vows to launch a nuclear strike on the U.S. Seoul has responded with tough talk of its own and has placed its troops on high alert.

The North Korean government made no formal announcement Monday on its repeated threats to scrap the armistice, but the country's main newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, reported that the armistice was nullified Monday as Pyongyang had earlier announced it would.

The North followed through on another promise Monday, shutting down a Red Cross hotline that the North and South used for general communication and to discuss aid shipments and separated families' reunions.

The 11-day military drills that started Monday involve 10,000 South Korean and about 3,000 American troops. Those coincide with two months of separate U.S.-South Korean field exercises that began March 1.



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