

## **Teaching Beauty: A Reflection on the Legacy of Benedict XVI's Pontificate**

by Christopher Candela

On Monday, March 18 - MORE Hot Topics will present *Teaching Beauty: A Reflection on the Legacy of Benedict XVI's Pontificate* by Christopher Candela in the Rochester Room at the Church of St. Thomas More at 7:00 p.m.

**Pope Benedict XVI**, who will be stepping down from the papacy on February 28, 2013 is considered to be one of the most brilliant minds in a century.

From its humble beginning to its historic conclusion, Benedict's pontificate will be remembered for its prolific teaching. Benedict reminds us that *logos* precedes *ethos*, and that discerning beauty is essential in the pursuit of truth. Through the Holy Father's teachings, **Mr. Candela** will explore the practical reforms that gave voice to Catholic musicians and artists who in previous decades had been relegated to "the rearguard of culture."

**Mr. Candela**, the Director of music at the Church of St. Thomas More, has worked for over 20 years as a pastoral musician in a broad range of parish, cathedral and seminary/academic venues. In Washington DC, Christopher worked as Assistant Organist at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. For a decade, he served as Director of Music for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' plenary sessions and developed a deep love of the Sacred Liturgy of Eastern and Western Catholic rites. In 1995 he was awarded the Justine Bayard Ward scholarship for studies in organ performance at the Catholic University of America. His teachers have included Leo Nestor, Robert Grogan, Theodore Marier and Elizabeth Daniels.

A native of Derry, New Hampshire, Mr. Candela is a liturgist, an artist, and a student of the Holy Father's writings, and as such is uniquely positioned to highlight the impact of the discernment of beauty in the writings, teachings and personal witness of Benedict XVI.