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www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics.org

RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY AND PBS WORLD CHANNEL PROVIDE LIVE COVERAGE AND ANALYSIS OF POPE BENEDICT XVI'S ADDRESS TO UN

Washington, D.C. — The public affairs program *RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY*, produced by Thirteen/WNET New York, will offer live coverage of Pope Benedict XVI's address to the United Nations' General Assembly this Friday, April 18 on PBS WORLD.

Host Bob Abernethy, along with program managing editor Kim Lawton, will begin the live coverage of the Pope's speech at 11:25 a.m. ET (check local listings) with a brief look at the pontiff's role in international relations prior to his scheduled address at 11:30 a.m. Benedict, as pope, is also the head of state for the independent territory of Vatican City and the Holy See. His address to the UN was his original reason for coming to the U.S. this week and many experts believe that speech could be the most important of his trip. Following the half-hour address, Abernethy and Lawton will offer brief analysis of the Pope's comments.

In conjunction with the Pope's historic six-day visit to Washington, D.C. and New York, *RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY* is providing special coverage of the papal trip in a series of consecutive reports. Last week, the program featured a segment on the unique role the Pope and the Vatican play on the world stage: (www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week1132/cover.html). In this week's broadcast, distributed Friday, April 18, Lawton, who has previously covered the Pope's visits to Turkey in 2006 and Brazil 2007, will focus on Benedict's meetings with representatives of various faith groups. And she will conclude her coverage next week (April 25) with a post-analysis report of the historic trip and the impact of the papal visit inside and outside the Roman Catholic Church.

Launched last August, PBS WORLD features documentary, public affairs, and news programming from public television's award-winning signature series and acclaimed independent filmmakers. The channel is produced and distributed by PBS, WGBH Boston and Thirteen/ WNET, in association with American Public Television (APT) and the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA).

Since its debut in 1997, *RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY* has focused on providing distinctive, cutting-edge religion coverage and analysis. It is distributed Fridays at 5 p.m. ET to PBS stations nationwide and can be seen on PBS WORLD Mondays at 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. ET. Major funding is provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. with additional support from Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, the Henry Luce Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and individual supporters. Executive producer is Arnold Labaton; Thirteen/WNET executive-in-charge is Stephen Segaller.



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