



# **A Church in Search of Itself: Benedict XVI and the Battle for the Future**

*Robert Blair Kaiser*

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# A Church in Search of Itself: Benedict XVI and the Battle for the Future

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**A Church in Search of Itself: Benedict XVI and the Battle for the Future** Robert Blair Kaiser  
A hugely informed look at the intensifying struggle over the future of the Catholic Church.

Despite the popularity of John Paul II, opposition to many of his policies had hardened among Catholics by the time of his death. The Church had become more doctrinaire, the voices of millions of dissenters ignored. Now Robert Blair Kaiser examines the most important and divisive issues confronting the Church: the sex abuse scandal, a shortage of priests due to the insistence upon celibacy, the ban on contraception, the roles of women and gays in the Church, the failure to reach out sincerely to other faiths, the increased participation of laypeople in Church affairs.

He gives us in-depth portraits of six of the cardinals who gathered in Rome in April 2005 to choose a new pope—Ratzinger from Germany, Mahony from the United States, Murphy-O'Connor from Britain, Rodríguez Maradiaga from Honduras, Arinze from Nigeria, and Darmaatmadja from Indonesia—and through them makes clear why Catholics worldwide are increasingly leaving the Church or defying Church doctrine. Finally, he explains why Ratzinger's ascendance was assured, and what this might mean for the future.

With passion and heartfelt concern, Robert Blair Kaiser brilliantly illuminates the issues and the combatants in the battle for the souls of the Catholic world

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