



Benedict officiates last public Mass

A capacity crowd in St. Peter's Basilica gave Pope Benedict a thunderous standing ovation vesterday at an emotional last public Mass before he resigns at the end of the month.

"Thank you. Now, let's return to prayer," the 85-yearold pontiff said, bringing an end to several minutes of applause that clearly moved him. Bishops took off their

85 Age of the pope, who will step down on Feb. 28

mitres in a sign of respect and a few of them wept. Hours ear-

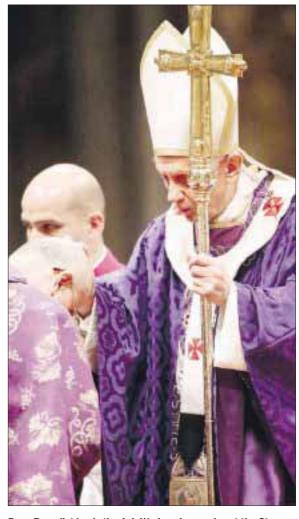
lier in the Vatican's modern audi-

ence hall, a visibly moved Benedict tried to assure his worldwide flock, saying he was confident his decision to step down would not hurt the Church.

The Vatican, meanwhile, announced that a conclave to elect his successor would start sometime between March 15 and 20.

"Continue to pray for me, for the Church and for the future pope," he said in unscripted remarks at the start of his weekly general audi-

Crowds greet outgoing pope



Pope Benedict leads the Ash Wednesday service at the St. Peter's Basilica yesterday. (GETTY)

Rubio: Gov't can't change weather

A day after delivering the Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union, Sen. Rubio Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) implied the government

couldn't do anything to ward off the effects of global warming.

"We can pass a bunch of laws that will destroy our economy, but it isn't going to

change the weather," Rubio said on "Fox and Friends" yesterday.

Rubio also commented on his odd water break during his speech Tuesday.

"I needed water, what am I going to do?" Rubio said, laughing, on "Good Morning America."

Remains, not yet ID'd, are likely ex-cop's

A fugitive ex-cop accused of a grudge-fueled killing spree targeting police and their families is believed to have died in a mountain cabin that burned down in the climax to a massive weeklong manhunt across Southern California. authorities said yesterday.

Police were awaiting forensic analysis to confirm that charred human remains found in the ruins of the cabin in the San Bernardino National Forest were

those of Christopher Dorner, 33. Authorities said the man who

had barricaded himself inside the cabin during a standoff with police on Tuesday was almost certainly Dorner.

A Los Angeles Police Department spokesman said security details assigned to officers and their families who had been threatened by Dorner would remain in place for the time being.

CORRECTION

A story in yesterday's paper, titled "More Poor Kids In the City," misstated the percentage of children reported to be neglected or abused in Mott Haven, Hunts Point and Brownsville. The correct numbers are 9.56%, 9.95% and 7.53% respectively.