

Pope Changes Church Law; Allows Cardinals to Start Conclave Early

Pope Benedict has changed Roman **Catholic** Church law regulating the conclave that will elect his successor, meaning it can start earlier, the Vatican said on Monday.

The change to a constitution by his predecessor John Paul means the cardinals no longer have to wait 15 days after the papacy becomes vacant on February 28 before they start the **conclave**.

The conclave can now start before March 15.

Reporting By Philip Pullella.

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