

This hasn't happened in 600 years...a pope voluntarily giving up his job.

But Pope Benedict is doing just that, saying declining health has led him to resign. La Crosse Bishop William Callahan says he certainly didn't expect to hear the resignation announcement today, and wonders why the pope is choosing to make this move now. Callahan does not think that Benedict will try to endorse a successor...arguing that the pope is beyond the age where he would be allowed to participate in the selection process. Some church-watchers have mentioned former La Crosse Bishop Raymond Burke, who is now a cardinal, as a potential choice for pope.