



## **AMERICA/CUBA - Bishops make the program known about the Pope's visit to Cuba**

Havana (Agenzia Fides) - After the Mexican Episcopal Conference (see Fides 02/01/2012), the Cuban Episcopal Conference announced the program of Pope Benedict XVI's visit in Cuba. The text of the statement, of which a copy was sent to Fides, said: "On 12 December 2011, His Holiness Benedict XVI announced that he intended to undertake an apostolic trip to Mexico and Cuba. The Holy Father, who had been invited by President Raúl Castro Ruz and by the Episcopal Conference, approved the program presented by those responsible for the travels of the Pope, after having visited our country and, after preparatory meetings with the Cuban authorities and members of the Episcopal Conference, for this visit, which will take place from 26 to 28 March 2012".

The Holy Father will arrive, coming from Mexico, in Santiago de Cuba, where he will be officially received by President Raúl Castro Ruz, by the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Cuba and the Archbishop of this city on March 26, in the early afternoon. In the late afternoon the Holy Father will celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary with a Mass in Plaza de la Revolucion "Antonio Maceo".

On the morning of March 27, the Holy Father will visit the private sanctuary of the Virgin of Charity to pray before the blessed image of Our Lady. After the visit, the Pope will leave for Havana. Around noon, at the airport "José Martí" Havana, he will be welcomed by Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino, Archbishop of Havana, by the auxiliary Bishops and other religious and civil authorities. In the afternoon, Benedict XVI will visit President Raúl Castro Ruz and in the evening, at the Nunciature, he will meet all the Bishops of Cuba.

In the morning of March 28, The Holy Father will preside at a Mass in Plaza de la Revolucion "Jose Marti". At the end of the celebration he will return to the Nunciature where he leave to go to the airport "Jose Marti" where he will be greeted and will return to Rome. (CE) (Agenzia Fides 03/01/2012)