



# Clericus CUP®



## **BREAKING NEWS**

**Various Cardinals present in Rome to elect the Pope are expected in S. Peter's Oratory**

## **Before Conclave, here comes the Clericus Cup**

Spanish, American, Mexican, French, Brazilians seminary students these days host the cardinals in their Colleges.

These days in the Seminars soccer is one of the most spoken words.

Tomorrow highlight match of the Clericus is Mater Ecclesiae vs. PSG (Seminar Gallico) Iberians against the "Lions of Africa" of the Urban College. The USA champions face the Paolins.

**Roma, 9<sup>th</sup> of march 2013** -After last weekend pause, following the resignation of Benedict XVI, Saturday and Sunday, on the fields of the Pontifical Oratory of St. Peter, a stone's throw from the Vatican (**Via di Santa Maria Mediatrice, 24**) we are back for the second day of the seventh editing of the Clericus World Soccer Cup, organized by the CSI Centro Sportivo Italiano, with the support of the CEI (Conference of Bishops) sport department and Vatican's Councils of culture. Again we have the opportunity to cheer for 355 priests and seminarists coming from 56 nations, waiting for the team who will earn the famous Cup with Saturn.

### **Support from the Cardinals**

Who knows if once again Clericus Cup will see the purple on the sidelines or on the stands. Roman colleges, in these days Conclave, host many of the cardinals who will shortly in the Sistine Chapel to elect the successor of Peter, and the seminarians and priests who play the Clericus Cup (including the pontifical Spanish, North American, Mexican, French and Brazilian colleges) confirmed that they also talked about soccer with their "superior", inviting them to be present at the Clericus Cup stadiums, to spend some time near the respective teams.

Many of the Cardinals present in Rome are soccer fans. Several in recent years have expressed their proximity to Clericus Cup. Starting from the Secretary of Vatican State Tarcisio **Bertone** who was the mind that generated the World Clericus Cup idea in collaboration with CSI. In 2007 when CSI donated the Cup to Cardinal Bertone he said: "timely initiative, which aims to promote mutual understanding and fraternal sharing among people from all over the world". Other Cardinals that are also very soccer fans come from Portugal: José Saraiva **Martins**; from South Africa Wilfrid Fox **Napier**, Archi-Bishop of Durban, in a letter to CSI he declared: «The World Cup is an opportunity to highlight the importance that sport plays in modern culture, in the name of patience, perseverance, respect. In this respect the Clericus Cup is a shining example of the relevance of these values and work of a vital Church. We must not be afraid to go ahead and go all the way, following the example of the words of John Paul II, with faith and courage that distinguishes athletes».

Let's not forget the sportsman Cardinal from Sidney, Gorge Pell. Last year he was sitting on the bench at the final match (won by the North American Martyrs) where he was playing with his seminarist Lewy Barakat.

Now, in the stars & stripes team, in company of Barakat (who shoots with "Del Piero" style) there is another "Kangaroo" Daniel Russo.

The last but not the least the Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Secular Vatican Council and the Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Vatican Council for culture who declared: "It is important to renew the ties that have traditionally bound sport institutions of priestly formation. We need to recover the dimension profoundly educational value of sport as a tool for self-knowledge, openness to others, limits are exceeded and, more recently, as a place of discovery of God".



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## Matches Agenda

It will be the big match between the two teams in Group B leaders to open the second weekend of play in the World Church. Saturday at 9 o'clock the heavenly "Madonna": **Mater Ecclesiae** will play against the "blues" of **Seminario Gallico from France**. The french cockerels are disadvantaged by tradition (have never won against fellow Marian) but this year they can count on the attack on the powerful captain Sadio, a real goal machine striker of Senegalese origin.

In the other group there is a risk of "black smoke" for the loser of the Match **Gregoriana Vs. Mexican College**. On the other hand there is a chance to play in the playoff for the winner of the match. At the same time, Saturday at 10:30 there will be the famous "Roja Vaticana" from the Spanish College that, after the K.O. of the starting match will try to redeem against the "African Lions" of Collegio Urbano.

Last year's champions North American Martyrs, ahead also this year in group A, will face the seminarists from **Collegio San Paolo on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of March (5 o'clock p.m.)**.

Sunday afternoon will take place the matches for the Clericus Cup group C: Brazilian College against the Redemptoris Mater, while the Guanelliani will encounter the seminarists from Verbo Incarnato. Group D leader is Seminario Romano Maggiore, the yellow-red shirted will face the Sedes Sapientiae from Trastevere, third place in 2012. The last match will be between the **Piolatinoamericano** and the Istituto Teologico **San Pietro** from Viterbo.

## Five Continents on the field.

More than 350 soccer players are attending the Clericus World Championship! Players belong to 56 different nationalities. The most represented is Mexico, with 46 athletes. Italy and USA follow with 29 athletes. Brazil is at 23, Spain 21, etc. Also Argentina, Perù, Zambia, Nigeria, Chile and Camerun have a good presence. All five continents are on the soccer field, there are athletes also from Australia, Papua Nuova Guinea, Zimbabwe, Timor Est, Scotland, England and South Korea.

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