

TESTO TRASMESSO DA DPA (10-05-2005)

Italy-Pope-Stamps/

Pope Benedict XVI to make debut on Vatican stamps, report =

Rome (dpa) - Pope Benedict XVI will make his first appearance on Vatican postage stamps next May 24, according to Vaccari, an Italy-based stamp-collecting trader.

Exclusive images of the three sets of stamps, depicting the new pope in his red, white or gold robes, are available on the company's Internet site (www.vaccari.it <<http://www.vaccari.it>>).

Each stamp bears the date of the papal election (April 19, 2005) and is accompanied by a different Latin phrase: "habemus papam" (we have a pope) on the 45 eurocent stamp; "tu es Petrus" (you are Peter) on the 62 cent stamp; and "episcopus Romae" (The Bishop of Rome) on the 80 cents stamp.

The stamps, whose date of emission has not yet been officially confirmed by the Vatican, will likely become much sought-after collectors' items.

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