

## abdicate - MSS 1

In 2013, there were two abdications. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands abdicated her throne in favor of her son Prince Willem-Alexander. The Queen was approaching her 75th birthday and decided that the time had come for her son to become the king. Even though the Queen was very popular among the Dutch people, it is not unusual for a Dutch monarch to abdicate. In fact, Queen Beatrix's mother and grandmother abdicated their thrones to their daughters.

The second abdication occurred when Pope Benedict said that he would step down. In contrast to Queen Beatrix's abdication, the Pope's resignation came as a great surprise to the Catholic Church. The last time a pope had abdicated was more than 600 years ago. Pope Benedict stated that his age and health were not sufficient for the strength of mind and body that were needed to fulfill his papal duties. The Cardinals elected a new pope who is Pope Francis from Argentina but of Italian descent. He is the first pope in the Catholic Church from the Americas. He resides at the Vatican in Rome, Italy.



## abdicate - MSS 2

With a partner answer the following questions from the preceding page:

1. Name the three countries that are mentioned in the passage.
2. Tell about the two abdications that occurred in 2013.
3. Discuss two similarities in the two abdicators.
4. Discuss three differences in the two abdicators.
5. Can you give any additional information, not mentioned in the passage, about these abdications?

