

Pope's Cat Narrates New Book

Chico the cat tells the life story of Pope Benedict XVI in a new children's book released this week.

Posted: October 4, 2007 5 a.m. EDT

"Chico and Joseph—A Cat Recounts the Life of Pope Benedict XVI" tells the life of the Pope from the point of view of Chico, a cat that lived with the Pope in Germany when the man was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Reuters reports. The 44-page authorized biography, written by Jeanne Perego and published by Edizione Messaggero Padova, will be released this week.

The children's book recounts the life of the Pope from his birth in Germany in 1927 to his election as Pope on April 19, 2005. Chico "narrates" the story of "my best friend," sharing tales of the Pope's days as a priest, bishop and cardinal.

"Dear Children, here you will find a biography that is different to others because it is told by a cat," says the Pope's personal secretary, Monsignor Georg Ganswein, in the book's forward. "It is not every day a cat can consider the Holy Father his friend and sit down to write his life story."

Chico, a 9-year-old cat who truly did live with the Pope in Germany, now lives with a couple in Pentling, Germany. The couple takes care of the home where Cardinal Ratzinger had planned to retire before he was elected Pope.