

Jadot Named to Head Vatican's Secretariat for Non-Christians

By Laurence Mullin
Religious News Service

New York — In choosing Archbishop Jean Jadot as the Catholic Church's representative to the non-Christian world, Pope John Paul II selected a man with a solid record for diplomacy and the experience of seven years working within the pluralistic setting of America.

How well the first non-Italian Apostolic Delegate in the U.S. has been received beyond the Catholic community was evident in the response of the American Jewish Committee to his appointment as head of the Vatican's Secretariat for Non-Christians.

In a statement issued here, leaders of the Jewish organization said they had enjoyed "a long and constructive relationship with Archbishop Jadot since he first came to the United States" in 1973.

Offering their "heartfelt congratulations" on the Belgian-born prelate's new appointment, AJC chairman Robert S. Jacobs and inter-religious affairs director Marc H. Tanenbaum declared:

"Both on professional and personal levels, we have been continuously impressed by his extraordinary intelligence and his compassion, and by his commitment to improved understanding between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people, as well as between all members of the human family."

A similar appraisal of Archbishop Jadot's period of service in the U.S. was offered by Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), who cited "the keen intelligence, good judgment, and vast experience" of the papal representative.

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Archbishop Jean Jadot, who has been apostolic Delegate in the United States since 1973, to head the Vatican's Secretariat for Non-Christians.

The move was part of a series of papal actions involving top-level changes in four departments of the Roman Curia, the central administrative arm of the Roman Catholic Church.

Brussels-born Archbishop Jadot, 70, succeeds Italian Cardinal Sergio Pignedoli, who died June 15.

Bishop Thomas Kelly, Rochester-born general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the NCCB's action arm, said Archbishop Jadot's service as apostolic delegate had brought "a rich harvest of benefits for the church in the U.S. at all levels."

Archbishop Jadot was not one to bury himself in the recesses of the apostolic delegation offices in Washington, remaining aloof from the hurly-burly of life in the "boondocks."

He was frequently away from his office, traveling about the country, visiting every state and well over three-quarters of the nation's 171 Catholic dioceses.

His trips, he insisted, were "visits of friendship," not "inspection" tours. "I come to meet with the people and share together our faith in the Lord," he once said.

During his tenure, Archbishop Jadot oversaw the appointment or transfer of over 135 bishops in the U.S., including the retirement of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and the succession of Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Many observers say the archbishop cast a "progressive" image on the bishops appointed since he took over as papal legate.

Msgr. John Tracy Ellis of Catholic University in Washington, D.C., whom

many regard as the leading Catholic historian in America, once said that the bishops appointed since 1973 were "men of more venturesome turn of mind, less traditional, less wedded to the past, and more open to the future, and more willing to listen to their priests, religious, and laity."

Archbishop Jadot, himself, tactfully demurred from such an assessment, claiming that the trend to appoint the so-called new type of bishop had begun before he had come to Washington.

From his extensive travels about the country, Archbishop Jadot said in an interview in 1979, he had concluded that one of the main strengths of the U.S. Catholic Church was its care for people and its "very deep openness to God in Jesus Christ."

He said he was also impressed with the development of prayer life among U.S. Catholics, their financial generosity, and their concern for renewal and evangelizing millions of inactive Catholics in America.

At the same time, the archbishop voiced his awareness of the "weaknesses" in the American Catholic Church, citing, for example, a "shallowness" in doctrinal formation "on all levels" that he said had resulted in an oversimplification of doctrinal problems.

Other weaknesses he

singled out were an impatience to get everything done immediately, a parochialism not concerned with the redemption of all the world, a lack of concern for minorities (this was improving, he said), and a lack of trust in young people.

He never forgot he was the "pope's man." Touching on the question of the negative reaction of a majority of U.S. Catholics to Pope Paul's encyclical "Humanae Vitae" which barred the use of pills and contraceptives, Archbishop Jadot said the 1968 papal document would come to be regarded as "prophetic."

Archbishop Jadot, in a statement following his new appointment, said he was sorry he had to leave the United States, "where I've come to feel so much at home."

He added, however, that he was "grateful to Pope John Paul II for giving me the opportunity to serve the church in her ongoing dialogue with all the religions of the world."

The position Archbishop Jadot will hold grew out of the Second Vatican Council in a recognition of the Catholic Church for dialogue with the world's major religions, beyond Christianity. The Secretariat for Non-Christians has been involved in theological discussions with Muslims, Jews and Eastern religions.

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2 SSJs to Join Mission in Brazil

The Sisters of St. Joseph have planned a July 22 ceremony to honor Sisters Catherine Foos and Elaine Hollis who will be leaving for the missions in Brazil next month. Sisters, family and friends will join in the spiritual and social farewell at the motherhouse.

After language study in Brazil between Aug. 17 and Dec. 6, the two Sisters will join the other SSJs in Brazil.

Sister Catherine, formerly known as Sister Barbara Ann, served on the Sisters of St. Joseph Central Administration from 1975 to 1979. She is the daughter of Mrs. Barbara Foos and is a graduate of Nazareth College. She also has Ph.D. from Notre Dame.

She has taught grammar school and at Nazareth College. She also has been campus minister at Ithaca College. After completing her four-year term in the central administration she entered a program, "Active Spirituality of the Global Community," with its center at Mt. St. Joseph's College in Ohio.

She spent the summer of 1973 in Brazil, following this

up with a year's study of Portuguese at Nazareth College.

Sister Elaine, who has been teaching theology at St. Agnes High School, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Gordon Hollis of Rochester.

She studied at Nazareth College and made her final profession May 1, 1977, at St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads. She is completing her master's degree requirements in theology at Notre Dame.

The Sisters will be leaving Rochester Aug. 10.

Bible School

Palmyra — Children of St. Anne's Parish here will take part in Vacation Bible School this summer. Registration blanks, to be returned to Palmyra's Presbyterian Church on Monday, July 14 or August 4, were included in last week's parish bulletin. The summer institution will feature handicrafts, songs, games and Bible lessons. The school will operate in the Palmyra churches from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., July 14-18 and August 4-8.

Florida Fair To Feature TV Actress

Inverness, Fla. — Mary-Eunice Spagnola, nationally known television actress, will present a monologue on such subjects as Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Sister Lucy of Fatima and Edith Stein during the Days of the Mariapolis, Sept. 8-11 at the Inverness Florida Fairgrounds.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is the Indian maiden known as the "Lily of the Mohawks" who died in 1680 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II on June 22 this year. Sister Lucy Santos is the only living visionary of Fatima, now a cloistered nun in Portugal. Edith Stein was a brilliant German writer, teacher and philosopher born of Jewish parents who entered the disalced Carmelite convent in Cologne when the Nazis came to power and died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz in 1942.

Mary-Eunice is also a teacher, writer and director of Mary Productions, an organization in the communications field working for God and souls.

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