

Cardinal Knox Dies at 69

Rome (NC) — Cardinal James Robert Knox, the only high-ranking Australian prelate in the church's central administration, died June 26 at 69.

The cardinal was president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, former prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Sacraments and Divine Worship and former archbishop of Melbourne, Australia. He had been hospitalized since May 13 at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic because of a stroke.

Pope John Paul II visited the cardinal at the hospital May 23 and later spoke with concern about the cardinal's health during an audience with members of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

Cardinal Knox's death brings to 134 the total mem-

bership of the College of Cardinals. Of these, 112 are under the age of 80 and thus eligible to vote in a conclave for the election of a new pope.

In 1953 he was named an archbishop and apostolic delegate in British Africa. He was ordained a bishop on Nov. 8, 1953.

Named archbishop of Melbourne in April 1967, he was made a cardinal by Pope Paul on March 5, 1973. In that year he hosted the 40th International Eucharistic Congress in Melbourne.

He was appointed prefect of the then-separate Congregation for Sacraments and Congregation for Divine Worship on Jan. 25, 1974.

During his eight-year tenure in the congregation, which is responsible for the

regulation of liturgical life in the church, he was involved in two major controversies over sacraments involving the U.S. Church — the order of first confession and first Communion, and the interpretation of norms for general absolution.

The first confession-first Communion controversy actually erupted in 1973, before Cardinal Knox took office, when the sacraments congregation and clergy congregation issued a condemnation of the practice of delaying reception of first confession.

But debate over the issue continued, particularly in the United States. In 1977 Cardinal Knox and American Cardinal John Wright, head of the Congregation for Clergy, issued a joint letter stating

that it would be "an absurd and unjust discrimination and a violation of conscience" to prepare a child for first Communion without preparing him equally for reception of first confession.

In that same year Cardinal Knox sharply criticized Bishop Carroll Dozier of Memphis, Tenn., for having held two reconciliation rites the previous December that featured general absolution without individual confession. While praising Bishop Dozier's "intentions and pastoral zeal" in holding the reconciliation rites, Cardinal Knox said that they violated several of the church's strict norms governing the use of general absolution and that they caused "grave confusion" and misunderstandings.

In 1980 Cardinal Knox issued a lengthy "Instruction on Certain Norms Concerning Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery," which praised many developments in liturgical reform since the Second Vatican Council but warned sharply against a number of liturgical abuses. Among the abuses he said had been reported were substitution of non-scriptural texts for the Scripture readings, the delivery of homilies by lay persons, use of unauthorized eucharistic prayers, and the "manipulation of the liturgical texts for social and political ends."

On Aug. 4, 1981, Pope John Paul II named him president of the newly created Pontifical Council for the Family.

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Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Statue Relocated

The statue of Bishop Bernard McQuaid, formerly located in an outdoor shrine at St. Bernard's Seminary, has found a permanent resting place now in front of the All Saints Chapel on the grounds of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. The statue of Rochester's first ordinary was sculpted in 1927, and a ceremonial Mass marking its relocation was held last Sunday at the cemetery.



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