

Archbishop Laghi to replace Cardinal Baum

By Agostino Bono
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — U.S. Cardinal William W. Baum has been named to head the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican office that deals with matters of conscience involving the sacraments and procedural issues concerning the sacraments and indulgences.

Replacing Cardinal Baum as head of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education (for Seminaries and Educational Institutions) is Italian Archbishop Pio Laghi,

since December, 1980, the pope's representative in the United States.

The Vatican announced the appointments April 6. The announcement did not say who would replace Archbishop Laghi in Washington.

The 63-year-old Cardinal Baum, who suffers from eye problems, has headed the education congregation since 1980. At the Apostolic Penitentiary, he replaces Italian Cardinal Luigi Dadaglio, who turned 75 last September. Seventy-five is the normal retirement age for Vatican officials.

Prior to being named to the education congregation, Cardinal Baum was bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., and archbishop of Washington. In 1976, he was named a cardinal.

Archbishop Laghi, 67, was assigned to the United States in 1980. At the time, no U.S.-Vatican diplomatic recognition existed, and the archbishop's main job was to be the pope's representative to the U.S. hierarchy. He had the title of apostolic delegate in the United States.

After diplomatic relations were established in 1984, he became apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States, representing the Vatican to the U.S. government as well as continuing as the pope's representative to the U.S. bishops.

Prior to working in the United States, Archbishop Laghi was apostolic nuncio to Argentina.

The education congregation oversees Catholic schools from the elementary through university levels. It is also responsible for Catholic institutions on non-Catholic campuses. In mission countries, it coordinates its work with the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

One of Archbishop Laghi's major tasks will be to complete work on proposed norms for Catholic universities, a con-

troversial task begun by Cardinal Baum.

Many Catholic educators have criticized the norms, saying they do not take into account legal, educational and cultural differences around the world. This has led to extensive revisions, a process still continuing.

The final draft will be presented to the pope for definitive action.

In an April 6 farewell talk to congregation officials, Cardinal Baum praised his successor.

"Archbishop Laghi is a very distinguished and qualified person of great experience," said the cardinal.

In a statement released April 6 in Washington, Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressed sadness and joy about the announcement of Archbishop Laghi's appointment.

"I am pleased for Archbishop Laghi but sad for ourselves. The church in the United States will be saying goodbye to a genuine friend," Archbishop Pilarczyk said.

He said the dynamism of the U.S. church "has been fed by Archbishop Laghi's own energy, and his leaving is our loss."

"It's not easy to be a bishop today," Archbishop Pilarczyk added. "But each of us has felt that in Archbishop Laghi we could count on finding an open door, an open ear and an open heart."

British change rules for mixed marriages

LONDON (CNS) — Bishops of England and Wales have issued new guidelines for interdenominational marriages, loosening rules on raising children Catholic but ruling out dual church membership for children.

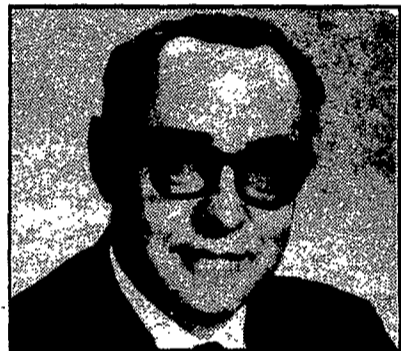
The Catholic partner in a mixed marriage no longer has to sign a statement promising "to do all in my power" to have the children raised Catholic.

Under the new guidelines, the Catholic partner verbally promises the priest, "I sincerely undertake that I will do all that I can within the unity of our partnership to have all the children of our marriage baptized and brought up in the Catholic Church."

The guidelines, which replaced those issued in 1970 and revised in 1977, rule out the possibility of dual church membership for children of mixed marriages. It is not possible for children to be Catholics and to belong to the denomination of the other parent, the guidelines say.

The guidelines quote Pope John Paul II's exhortation to mixed-marriage couples during his 1982 visit to Britain, when he told them: "You live in your marriage the hopes and difficulties of the path to Christian unity."

They also mention Pope Paul VI's 1970 statement that the church has a duty to discourage mixed marriages.



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