

WORLD & NATION

Pope adds seven to list of cardinals-designate

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — In a surprising and unprecedented move, Pope John Paul II named seven new cardinals after appointing 37 just a week earlier.

The new nominees included archbishops from Ukraine and Latvia whom the pope had designated cardinals "in pectore" — in his heart — in 1998, but whose names could not be divulged until now.

Additionally, he named two prelates from Germany, the first black cardinal from South Africa, a Bolivian and the head of the Ukrainian Eastern-rite church.

Announcing the nominations Jan. 28, the pope said he recognized that he would be further exceeding the technical limit of 120 cardinal-electors, who are under age 80 and eligible to vote in a papal conclave. After they accept their "red hats" at a consistory Feb. 21, the total number of cardinal electors will be 135.

Barring deaths, the latest appointments will leave the College of Cardinals with a record-high membership of 185.

The two "in pectore" cardinals-designate were:

- Marian Jaworski, 74, the Latin-rite archbishop of Lviv, Ukraine, and a close personal friend of Pope John Paul. Many of his faithful of about 175,000 are of Polish ethnic origin. Because of the delicate relations among Christian communities in Ukraine, his nomination was considered a sensitive issue.

- Janis Pujats, 70, the archbishop of Riga, Latvia. In 1998, the last time the pope named cardinals, the archbishop was making news by publicly urging Russia to stop interfering in Latvia's internal affairs, particularly on the status of Latvia's Russian minority.

The Cardinals-designate include Lubomyr Husar of Lviv, head of the Eastern-rite Ukrainian Catholic Church, who was elected to his post by a Ukrainian synod Jan. 25 and approved by the pope the next day. The Ukrainian-born prelate is also a naturalized U.S. citizen. He will turn 68 on Feb. 26.

The pope said that with the naming of Cardinals-designate Husar, Jaworski and Pujats, he wanted to honor East European Catholic communities that offered heroic example to the rest of the church in the 20th century.

"They knew how to witness their faith among sufferings of every kind, which not infrequently culminated in the sacrifice of one's life," he said.

Cardinals-designate Husar and Jaworski are expected to take leading roles in preparing the pope's June 23-27 pastoral visit to Ukraine.

The pope, without further explanation, then named four "well-deserving pastors" to the list of new cardinals:

- Johannes Joachim Degenhart of Paderborn, Germany, who turns 75 Jan. 31.

- Julio Terrazas Sandoval of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 64.

- Wilfred Fox Napier of Durban, South Africa, 59.

- Karl Lehmann of Mainz, Germany, 64. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope's decision to name car-

dinals in two groups a week apart hinged on the fact that Cardinal-designate Husar was up for election by the Ukrainian Eastern-rite synod in late January.

The pope wanted to name most of the cardinals in mid-January, so they would have time to prepare for the February consistory. But he held back several names so that Cardinal-designate Husar would not be the only one nominated on Jan. 28, Navarro-Valls said.

Although he has served many years as president of the German bishops' conference, Cardinal-designate Lehmann was considered a surprise choice by many Vatican-watchers. For one thing, he is a bishop, not an archbishop. For another, he has been in the middle of pastoral tensions with the Vatican in recent years, including a much-publicized disagreement over German church involvement in a state-run abortion counseling program.

In addition, his comments last year that he thought Pope John Paul might one day consider resigning prompted criticism inside the Vatican.



Reuters/CNS

Prayers amidst rubble

A man prays near his destroyed house in the northwestern Indian city of Bhuj Jan. 27 following a massive earthquake that hit the region the day before. The death toll from the powerful earthquake was expected to reach beyond 20,000.

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