WORLD & NATION

Pope John Paul II face will be on euro coins

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VATIGAN CITY (CNS) - Europeans soon will be able to pay for their morning coffee and newspaper using coins bearing the image of Pope John Paul II.

Ahead of the Jan. 1 release of euro bills and coins, the Italian Treasury said Aug. 17 "Vatican City will be able to count on a small quantity of euros with the image of John Paul II coined by the Italian Mint." the treasury said Under an accord with Italy signed earlier this year, the Vatican is allowed an annual maximum of 670,000 euros, about \$615,000 in coins, which is about the same it has minted in Italian lira. Like other participating

Amalia D'Alascio, vice director of the Vatican's coin and stamp office, said the design of the Vatican's euro coins has been entrusted to Guido Veroi, a well-known Italian sculptor who has created other Vatican coins and commemorative medals.

countries, the Vatican will design one

side of its euro coins; the other side is

common to the whole euro zone.

D'Alascio told Vatican Radio the design "probably" would be the pope's image, but an official in her office told Catholic News Service Aug. 20 there was no doubt the pope's face would be on the coins.

European newspapers have reported that French authorities resisted euros bearing an image of the pope, saying their use in France would violate separation between church and state. The Vatican is one of three tiny non-EU states allowed by the European Union to adopt the euro. The others are San Marino, which cur-rently uses the Italian lira, and Monaco, which uses the French franc.

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Faith-based office director to leave

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The director of the White House Office on Faith-based and Community Initiatives plans to leave the post, just six months after he was ap-

President Bush named John DiIulio to head the new office when it was created late in January. DiIulio, a Catholic Democrat who made his academic name as a criminologist, took a leave from a professorship at the University of Pennsylvania to open the White House office.

Dilulio, 43, told reporters Aug. 17 he had accomplished goals he set for the job and that he never intended to stay in the position longer than six months to a year. He added that health and family considerations also are a factor in his decision to leave. He often jokes about being overweight and has three children, ages 8, 11,

DiIulio has been commuting between his Philadelphia home and his Washington office. Catching the 4:05 a.m. train from Philadelphia several times a week has been grueling, he told reporters.

But he also said the job itself has been frustrating.

"It's a tough environment to work in when sometimes partisan considerations get in the way of the bald truth," Dilulio told one interviewer.

"I hate the nonsense that goes on here," he told another reporter in Washington. He also noted he felt pressure from those on both sides of the faithbased initiative.

One goal he said he had was to see faith-based legislation be approved by the

In July, the House passed one piece of Bush's initiative. The bill would provide new tax breaks for individual and corporate contributions to charities and would expand the list of social service programs in which community and faith-based



John J. Dilulio briefs members of the press on the progress of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives April 3 in Washington. At right is Michael Cromartie of the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

groups can participate. It has far less support in the Senate, however, where Democratic leaders have said they doubt the bill will come up for consideration before

From the start, Dilulio emphasized that he was not a politician, but his blunt style has both attracted some people to Bush's faith-based initiative and upset some of the president's Republican supporters.

In March he offended some Christian leaders when he questioned their sincerity about wanting to help those who truly need it. Others took issue with his position that recipients of federal funding should not be allowed to promote religious viewpoints in government-supported programs.

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