

Archbishop to be installed

Plans to address clergy sex-abuse in Boston

BOSTON (CNS) — A man in the simple brown robes and sandals of a Capuchin friar brought a renewed sense of enthusiasm and hope to the embattled Catholic Archdiocese of Boston in early July, weeks before his formal installation as archbishop of Boston.

Archbishop Sean Patrick O'Malley, who was to be installed July 30 at Boston's Cathedral of the Holy Cross, spent a whirlwind day in Boston July 1, meeting with the media, clergy sex-abuse victims, bishops, chancery employees and patients at Caritas St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

"I address you, my fellow Catholics of Boston, with those words that inspired St. Francis, when the crucified Lord said to him, 'Francis, repair my church,'" Archbishop O'Malley said at a news conference. "I ask you, and plead with you: Repair my church."

Archbishop O'Malley returned at the end of the day to Palm Beach, Fla., where he has headed the diocese since only last October and where he was to remain until his installation in Boston.

A Vatican official said the archbishop's transfer to Boston after such a brief term in Florida was a highly unusual step that reflects deep Vatican concern for the Boston situation and its confidence in the Capuchin friar.

The 59-year-old archbishop succeeds Cardinal Bernard F. Law, who resigned last December after a year of growing scandal over his handling of priests who sexually abused children. In Palm Beach, he headed a diocese whose last two bishops resigned amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

Archbishop O'Malley has made clear that his first priority in Boston will be confronting the clergy sex-abuse scandal and redressing what he called the "grave errors of the past."

"Together as Catholics, clergy,



Irene Hey/CNS

Bishop Sean Patrick O'Malley has been appointed by Pope John Paul II to head the Archdiocese of Boston. He is pictured here entering the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., for his installation as bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach Oct. 19, 2002.

consecrated religious and laity, we must work to bring healing and comfort to the victims of abuse, and to guarantee that through vigilance and education, our churches, schools and agencies will be safe havens for children and young people," he said at the news conference.

Among the areas requiring his immediate attention were financial settlements, which he said he was anxious to resolve.

"We hope that the achievement of financial settlements will be a factor in a process of healing," he said. "Settlements are not hush money or extortion or anything other than the rightful indemnification of persons who have suffered gravely at the hands of priests."

At the meeting with victims on that first day in Boston, Archbishop O'Malley heard some plain talk, ac-

ording to a report in *The Boston Globe*.

Bernie McDaid, who says he was abused by Father Joseph E. Birmingham 40 years ago, said he told the new archbishop: "So, Sean, don't blow it."

"The whole room started laughing, and he laughed, too," McDaid said. "So he is human. And I like that. It broke the ice a little bit."

Mary E. Alexsovich, Archbishop O'Malley's younger sister, told *The Globe* that she thought "his legacy would be his work with the poor."

"But it seems it will be the other poor: the poor victims" of clergy sex abuse, she said. "He's got a job to do, and he'll do it."

Contributing to this story were Meghan Dorney in Boston and Nancy O'Brien in Washington.

PRIEST: PROTECT RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As a community that represents both the center of American society and its fringes, the Catholic Church's role in immigration must be to make connections between the people from both those segments, participants in a migration conference were told July 6.

Generations after the big influxes of Catholic immigrants from Western Europe, the descendants of those immigrants are now a dominant part of the main U.S. political and social structure, Father J. Bryan Hehir, president of Catholic Charities USA, told the nearly 800 people attending the National Migration Conference.

But Catholics also are heavily represented among the new immigrants from Eastern Europe, Asia, Central and South America, the Balkans and Africa, he said. And church teaching says Catholics have responsibilities to protect the human rights of all immigrants, no matter what their religion.

VATICAN ADVANCES SAINTHOOD CAUSES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican published decrees advancing the sainthood causes of 10 people.

The decrees, promulgated July 7 in Pope John Paul II's presence, also include two recognizing the martyrdom of a Slovakian bishop and nun under communism. The other decrees include the recognition of miracles that clear the way for the canonization of an Italian priest and the beatifications of a French monk, an Italian layman and a Colombian nun.

PAKISTAN PRIEST KILLED IN RAID ON RESIDENCE

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (CNS) — A Catholic priest who had received threats after taking over a church school was shot dead at his parish residence in eastern Pakistan early July 5.

Father George Ibrahim, 36, was sleeping in the courtyard of the residence in Renala Khurd in the Faisalabad Diocese when unknown assailants broke in at about 2 a.m., reported UCA News, an Asian church news service based in Thailand.

Sis

Mike Latona

The last Rochester Diocese Sisters of Notre-Dame were installed within the

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