

Holy Cross Fathers Renege On Promise To Replace Claretians

By FRANK MORRISS

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BATON ROUGE, La. — Heavy pressure is said to have moved the Holy Cross Fathers to avoid their contract to replace the Claretian staff at the Catholic student center at Louisiana State University. The announcement that Fr. Richard Greene of the adjacent Lafayette, La., Diocese would be new director of the center when the Claretians leave Aug. 1st seems to have caught by surprise agitators of resistance to Bishop Joseph Sullivan's decision.

First reaction by a spokeswoman for the so-called "Friends of the Diocese," who have been orchestrating the resistance, was favorable to Fr. Greene's qualifications. Madelyn Ancona said, however, that the "Friends" would stay organized to stress the importance of lay involvement, which they feel has been lacking in Bishop Sullivan's administration.

The quarters from which pressure was brought upon the Holy Cross Fathers, causing them to renege on the contract cannot be ascertained for certain. As of this writing, Fr. John Miller, C.S.C., Provincial of New Orleans, had not made a public statement. A letter from the Connecticut Holy Cross Provincial to an inquirer stated the Holy Cross Fathers would be "unable to assist" the Bishop. Bishop Sullivan confirmed that the community had been released from contractual obligations to staff the center.

According to the Baton Rouge morning daily paper, Ms. Ancona "spoke well of the newly appointed director's reputation, saying he is

'highly respected' and 'one of the best priests Lafayette has.'" Fr. Greene is director of communications and chairman of the clergy personnel advisory board in the Lafayette Diocese.

Announcement of the appointment came the same day that the Claretians released a statement from Fr. Dan Drinan, current director of the Chapel of Christ the King, diocesan owned facility on the LSU campus, expressing the desire to stay on. The statement, made on behalf of Fr. James Maloney, Claretian Provincial, announced the intention of the Claretians to "continue to use the resources of the Catholic Church to appeal in every way this unjust decision" (see accompanying article for interview with Fr. Drinan).

Fr. Drinan revealed to this reporter some of the "resources" that the Claretians are relying upon. He named Cardinals Sebastiano Baggio and Eduardo Pironio as those to whom they have taken their complaints. Cardinal Baggio is head of the Sacred Congregation for Bishops and Cardinal Pironio heads the Congregation for Religious.

Fr. Drinan also speculated that the pressure leading to the voiding of the contract with the Holy Cross Fathers came from provincials within that community. However, one of the "Friends of the Diocese" on television (again Ms. Ancona) said she hoped it was the letters sent by that group which brought about the avoidance of the contract.