

New members for College of Cardinals hail from 14 nations

written by Special to Arkansas Catholic |



Three new cardinals named from U.S.

Pope Francis will conclude the Year of Mercy by creating 17 new cardinals, including three from the United States: Archbishop Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Bishop Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis.

The new cardinals will be inducted into the College of Cardinals Nov. 19, the eve of the close of the Year of Mercy. The next day, Nov. 20, they will join Pope Francis and other cardinals in celebrating the feast of Christ the King and closing the Year of Mercy, the pope said.

Here is the list of new cardinals in the order in which Pope Francis announced them:

- Archbishop Zenari, an Italian who is 70 years old
- Dieudonne Nzapalainga of Bangui, Central African Republic, 49
- Archbishop Carlos Osoro Sierra of Madrid, 71
- Archbishop Sergio da Rocha of Brasilia, Brazil, who will be 57 Oct. 21
- Archbishop Cupich, 67

- Archbishop Patrick D’Rozario of Dhaka, Bangladesh, 73
- Archbishop Baltazar Porras Cardozo of Merida, Venezuela, who turns 72 Oct. 10
- Archbishop Jozef De Kesel of Malines-Brussels, Belgium, 69
- Archbishop Maurice Piat of Port-Louis, Mauritius, 75
- Bishop Farrell, 69
- Archbishop Carlos Aguiar Retes of Tlalnepantla, Mexico, 66
- Archbishop John Ribat of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 59
- Archbishop Tobin, 64
- Retired Archbishop Anthony Soter Fernandez of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 84
- Retired Archbishop Renato Corti of Novara, Italy, 80
- Retired Bishop Sebastian Koto Khoarai of Mohale’s Hoek, Lesotho, 87
- Father Simoni, 87, priest of the Archdiocese of Shkodre-Pult, who spent 30 years in prison or forced labor under Albania’s militant atheistic regime

VATICAN CITY — Choosing new members of the College of Cardinals, Pope Francis once again looked to countries and particularly to dioceses that were not and never had been represented in the body that advises the pope and bears responsibility for electing his successor.

Announcing the names of 17 cardinals he will create Nov. 19, Pope Francis chose men from 14 nations, which will bring the total number of countries represented in the College of Cardinals to 79. When he announced the names Oct. 9, the college had members from 72 countries.

The cardinal electors — the prelates under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope — currently represent 57 nations; after the consistory to create new cardinals, the group will bring together men from 60 countries.

The 115 cardinal electors who entered the conclave in 2013 that elected Pope Francis had come from 48 countries. Eight years earlier, the group that elected now-retired Pope Benedict XVI came from 53 nations.

Under Pope Francis, the idea that some large archdioceses are always led by a cardinal is fading, but is not altogether gone. His latest choices included the archbishops of Chicago, Malines-Brussels and Madrid. But other traditional cardinal sees like Venice and Turin in Italy or Baltimore and Philadelphia in the United States were not included in the pope’s latest picks.

Not only did Pope Francis name the first ever cardinal electors from Bangladesh, Central African Republic and Papua New Guinea, he named Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin the first cardinal elector of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; Archbishop Baltazar Porras Cardozo the first cardinal elector of Merida, Venezuela; and Archbishop Carlos Aguiar Retes the first

archbishop of Tlalnepantla, Mexico, to be a cardinal elector. (The late Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis had been archbishop of Indianapolis 15 years before being named cardinal and the late Cardinal Adolfo Suarez Rivera of Monterrey had been archbishop of Tlalnepantla 14 years before being named a cardinal.)

The 2016 consistory will be the third called by Pope Francis to create new cardinals and, once again, members of the Roman Curia received just a nod. Irish-born U.S. Bishop Kevin J. Farrell, the prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life, is the only member of the Curia chosen this time. Archbishop Mario Zenari, the pope's nuncio to Syria, also was tapped, but the pope made it clear that the Italian archbishop would remain in war-torn Syria.

After the distribution of red hats Nov. 19, members or retired members of the Curia will make up 28 percent of the cardinal electors. Just over 35 percent of the members of the group that elected Pope Francis in 2013 were Curia veterans, although only 24 percent of the cardinals in the conclave that elected Pope Benedict were.

After the consistory, the electors named cardinals by Pope Benedict will account for just over 46 percent of the total; just over 36 percent will have been named by Pope Francis; and just over 17 percent will be cardinals created by St. John Paul II.

Fifty-two percent of the members of the conclave that elected Pope Francis were European. In early October, 46.8 percent of the cardinal electors were from Europe, and after the consistory the group will make up 44.6 percent of the electors. The 24 Italian electors as of Oct. 10 account for 21.6 percent of those eligible to enter a conclave. With Cardinal-designate Zenari, the Italians will account for 20.6 percent of the electors after Nov. 19.

The second-largest group is and will be from North and South America. Currently 30 of the 111 electors, or 27 percent, are from the Americas. The percentage will grow to 28 percent when the new cardinals are inducted. With three new U.S. cardinals, the United States and Canada will account for 10.7 percent of the college.