



DOMUS INTERPROVINCIALES ROMANAE

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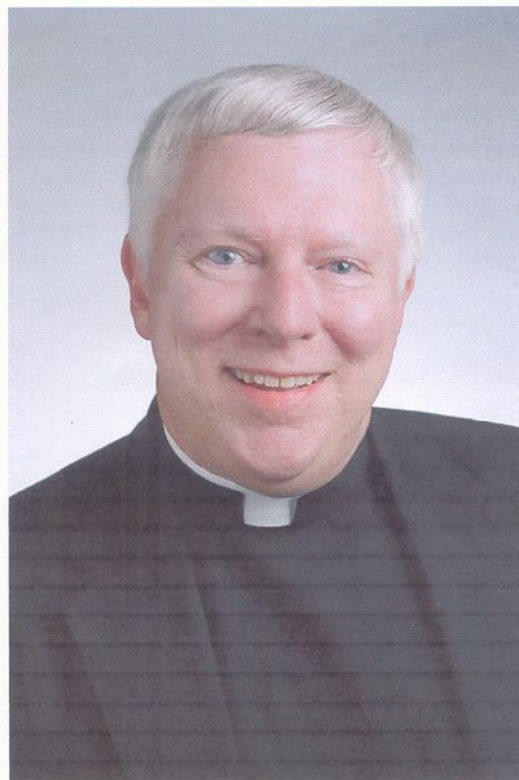
Pope Benedict XVI has appointed **Fr. James McCann, S.J.**, the next Rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute. He will assume these responsibilities in mid-September 2010.

Born in the United States in 1949, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1967, and was ordained in 1979. He has a licentiate in theology from Centres Sevres in Paris, a Masters degree in Russian and East European Studies from Yale University, and a doctorate from Princeton University in Political Science with a specialization in Russia and Eastern Europe.

In the past, he was a professor at Loyola University in Chicago and at Xavier University in Cincinnati. He has served as Dean at Loyola and Director of Peace Studies at Xavier. He has also done studies in Germany, and pastoral ministry in Russia and Kazakhstan.

Since 2003, he has worked for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington DC as Director of the Office of Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. He also serves the U.S. Bishops' Conference as a consultant on the church in Russia and Eastern Europe, as well as on the culture and history of those regions.

He has had wide-ranging contacts with bishops and with episcopal conferences throughout twenty-eight countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He has been especially involved with the formation of future Church leaders (priests, religious, lay) throughout the region. His office has also supported the development of Catholic schools, seminaries and higher educational institutions in the East.



His experience includes close cooperation with agencies serving the churches of Eastern Europe, such as Renovabis (Germany), the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, the Italian Bishops' Conference, Caritas, and Riunione Opere Aiuto Chiese Orientali - a committee of the Congregation for Oriental Churches.

With a solid background in academia as well as ecclesial administration, he brings a keen interest and expertise in the oriental churches and society which are the focus of the Pontifical Oriental Institute. He looks forward to guiding that institution in its service of the mission the Popes have entrusted to it, which is to be a theological and spiritual resource for the churches of the East.