

GEORGIA: Atlanta archbishop apologizes for posh residence

Written by Ray Henry & Rachel Zoll
Tuesday, 01 April 2014 18:13

{lang: 'en-GB'}



ATLANTA (AP) — Archbishop [Wilton Gregory](#) seems to have gotten the pope's message about modest living.

Days after Pope Francis permanently removed a German bishop for his lavish spending on a new residence, the Atlanta archbishop apologized for building a \$2.2 million mansion as his residence. He bowed to criticism from local parishioners and said he'd consider selling the new home in Buckhead, Atlanta's toniest neighborhood.

In letters, emails and a meeting, local Catholics told Gregory the price tag was outlandish, especially in light of Francis' frugality. The Tudor-style mansion, stretching nearly 6,400 square feet, includes two dining rooms and a safe room. The archbishop said the new pope has "set the bar" for church leaders and others, and Gregory said he hadn't looked at the project's cost in terms of his own "integrity and pastoral credibility."

"I failed to consider the impact on the families throughout the archdiocese who, though struggling to pay their mortgages, utilities, tuition and other bills, faithfully respond year after year to my pleas to assist with funding our ministries and services," Gregory wrote late Monday on the website of the archdiocesan newspaper.

GEORGIA: Atlanta archbishop apologizes for posh residence

Written by Ray Henry & Rachel Zoll
Tuesday, 01 April 2014 18:13

It's a challenge bishops will be facing more pointedly — and publicly — in the age of Francis.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., parishioners have recently criticized Archbishop [John Myers](#), and withheld some donations, after they learned the archdiocese was spending at least \$500,000 to expand his retirement home, adding an indoor therapy pool, fireplaces and an office library. Last week, Francis removed German bishop [Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst](#) after he spent \$43 million on a new residence and related renovations.

"More people are thinking about it, how to tone it down as far as their living arrangements," said [Russell Shaw](#), a former spokesman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a Catholic writer.

The Vatican declined comment Tuesday.

Pope Francis has made clear he expects his priests and bishops to follow his example of sobriety, imploring them to refrain from driving fancy cars or using the latest iPhone. To emphasize the point, Francis convened the heads of all Vatican offices Tuesday to discuss implementing his apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel."

In the statement, a blueprint for his papacy, Francis denounces the "idolatry of money," self-indulgence and "insidious worldliness" within the church, and laments how the poor have been excluded from the global economy. Francis has implemented a spending review within the Vatican, enacting a hiring freeze and overtime cut in a bid to reduce waste.

GEORGIA: Atlanta archbishop apologizes for posh residence

Written by Ray Henry & Rachel Zoll
Tuesday, 01 April 2014 18:13



<http://www.foxnews.com/news/crime/article/Atlanta-Archbishop-apologizes-for-posh-residence-56>