

'No punishment for Notre Dame,' says bishops' conference vice-president

John L. Allen Jr. | Jun. 17, 2009 NCR Today



I sat down with Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona yesterday

and asked him about the fallout from the debate over the University of Notre Dame's decision to award an honorary doctorate to President Barack Obama, and to invite him to deliver the university's annual commencement address May 17.

Kincanas, a Chicago native, was elected vice-president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2007, which puts him in line to become president of the conference in 2010.

Among other things he said: "I don't think anyone feels that President [John] Jenkins [the Holy Cross priest who heads Notre Dame] is a person of bad intention. He's a good man. He's deeply committed to the faith, as is the university. But we need to have dialogue and that's what Bishop D'Arcy was expressing ? the desire for some consultation."

The full interview can be read here: [No push to punish Notre Dame for Obama invite](#) [1].

Read also my interview with Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Curry of Los Angeles: [?No consensus? on follow-up to Notre Dame flap](#) [2]

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