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## Was Martino pushed? The speculation begins.

by Thomas C. Fox

NCR Today

David Gibson, writing in *Politics Today* suggests Scranton Bishop Joseph Martino's resignation might not have been entirely his own idea.

Writes Gibson: "Now, in a stunning turn that has taken even veteran church-watchers by surprise, Martino on Monday resigned his post under highly unusual circumstances -- citing the stress of the job and saying he could not continue in a post that should have been his for another dozen years, at least.

But church insiders say Martino had also worn out his welcome with his brother bishops and the Vatican. So his resignation may be further evidence that the U.S. hierarchy is divided between moderate voices and a more strident conservative minority that is struggling in the wake of Obama's success with Catholic voters."

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