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Pope Francis appoints bishops in France, Kansas, Miami

by Joshua J. McElwee

NCR Today

Vatican City — Pope Francis on Thursday appointed three bishops: Msgr. Olivier Leborgne as bishop of Amiens, France; Msgr. Carl Kemme as bishop of Wichita, Kan.; and Msgr. Peter Baldacchino as auxiliary bishop of Miami.

The appointment of Kemme, who had been serving as the vicar general of the Springfield, Ill., archdiocese, was first announced Thursday by Springfield Bishop Thomas Paprocki.

Five minutes before the Vatican press office released the official notice of the new bishop's appointment, Paprocki tweeted:

Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Carl Kemme to be Bishop of Witchita. He has chosen wisely. Ordination will be May 1. Congratulations!

? Bishop Paprocki (@BishopPaprocki) February 20, 2014

Following Kemme's installation May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, five U.S. dioceses will still be without bishops.

Baldacchino, a native Maltese, becomes the first auxiliary for Archbishop Thomas Wenski's Miami archdiocese, which has a population of about 1.3 million Catholics.

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