



BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

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CHANGE FOR CATHOLICS: Now that Bishop Wilton D. Gregory is moving from the Belleville Diocese to the Atlanta Archdiocese, speculation now focuses on who will replace him.

Atlanta is next for Gregory

Pope appoints him archbishop in key move for church

By PATRICK POWERS
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Most Catholics in the Belleville Diocese knew it was only a matter of time.

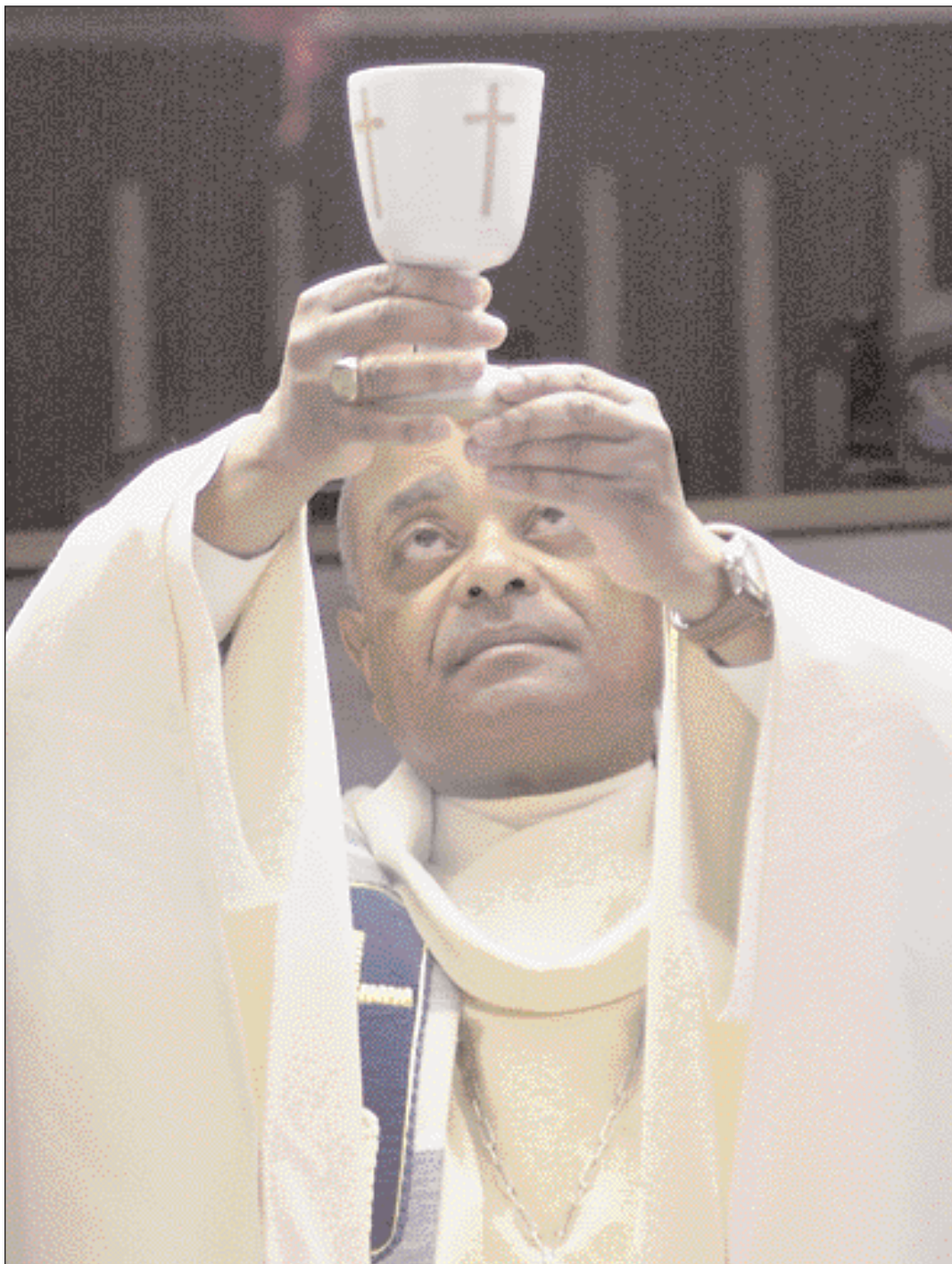
Bishop Wilton D. Gregory was too smart, too congenial and too notable not to be elevated in the ranks of the Catholic Church, they said. On Thursday, the church proved them right and Gregory was introduced as the new archbishop of Atlanta.

Gregory, who will continue to lead the Belleville Diocese until his installation Jan. 17 in Atlanta, said he looks forward to leading an archdiocese twice as large and with four times the population of his current diocese.

"I promise to work collaboratively with all of the citizens of this great community and to learn to reverence the rich traditions and heritage of all its people," he said.

The Belleville Diocese will greatly miss Gregory's leadership, vicar general Monsignor James Margason said, although the appointment came as no surprise to some Catholics in Southern Illinois.

"I think for some time the people of this diocese ... knew that with his talents and his skills, at some point he would



ZIA NIZAMI/News-Democrat

Bishop Wilton Gregory has been appointed by the pope as archbishop of Atlanta.

Diocese may wait for 6-12 months for Gregory's successor

By PATRICK J. POWERS
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BELLEVILLE — The Catholic Diocese of Belleville can expect to wait from six months to a year before a new bishop is appointed and installed here, the diocese's vicar general said Thursday.

"It's not going to be easy to step into the shoes following Bishop Gregory," said Monsignor James Margason, vicar general and pastor of Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Shiloh. "He demonstrated great leadership skills and was unflappable."

And while Bishop Wilton D. Gregory's appointment as archbishop of Atlanta on Thursday left mixed feelings among Catholics throughout Southern Illinois — happy and proud to see him promoted, sad to see him go — it also left one glaring question: Who will be named as the eighth bishop of Belleville?

Catholic observers already have begun speculating, but few are willing to name names.

"I don't know and would be a fool to even guess," said Robert Gilligan, executive director for the Catholic Conference of Illinois.

The best way to guess who might be appointed as the new bishop could be to take a historical look. The Catholic Church traditionally elevates someone between ages 55 and 65 already serving in a leadership position, said the Rev.



These types of items for the proposed District 201 dress code policy can be found at Rising Stars on West Main Street in Belleville.

School dress code planned

Would ban jeans, require solid colors

By RAMONA CURTIS
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BELLEVILLE — Blue jeans and sweat pants would be banned at the city's public high schools under a proposed dress code to be considered by the District 201 school board Monday.

A committee, comprised of students, parents, teachers and administrators, has created a standardized dress code policy that would allow students to wear six colors that they could mix and match.

If approved by the school board, students will be required to wear solid-colored pants, skirts, shirts, sweaters, sweat shirts and turtlenecks in black, blue, white, khaki/brown, maroon and gray.

They will not be permitted to wear denim pants or skirts, sweat pants, or leather, stretch/spandex, cargo or carpenter pants.

However, a group of students from Belleville East High School plans to attend the board meeting to weigh in on

Please see **CODE, A2**

Who might replace Bishop Wilton D. Gregory as leader of the Belleville Diocese?

Monsignor James Margason



Diocese of Belleville, vicar general
Age: 63
Ordained: June 5, 1971
Why he may get the job: Margason knows the diocese. He has served as vicar general, essentially Bishop Wilton Gregory's closest adviser, for the past 10 years. However, the last Belleville diocesan priest to get the job was Monsignor Albert Zuroweste in 1948.

Bishop John Manz



Archdiocese of Chicago, auxiliary bishop
Age: 59
Ordained: May 12, 1971
Why he may get the job: The past two Belleville bishops both came from the Archdiocese of Chicago. Three of the last four were previously auxiliary bishops in larger dioceses. Manz is one of three auxiliary bishops there who's been in that job for more than four years.

Bishop Joseph N. Perry



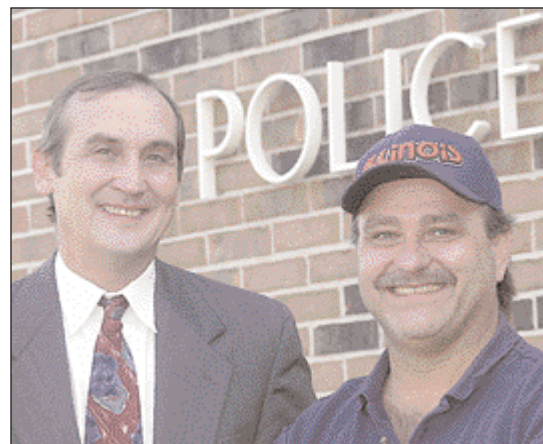
Archdiocese of Chicago, auxiliary bishop
Age: 56
Ordained: May 24, 1975
Why he may get the job: Perry, like Gregory in 1993, is a young black auxiliary bishop from the Archdiocese of Chicago. The last two Belleville bishops both came from the Archdiocese of Chicago. Three of the last four were previously auxiliary bishops in larger dioceses.

Bishop Robert Hermann



Archdiocese of St. Louis, auxiliary bishop
Age: 70
Ordained: March 30, 1963
Why he may get the job: When it comes time for recommendations, St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke most likely will be consulted. Three of the past four Belleville bishops were auxiliary bishops, including one from St. Louis. The traditional retirement age for bishops is 75, and that could work against him.

Swansea Police Chief Dennis Fritz, right, will be replaced by Deputy Chief Steve Krakowiecki.



TIM VIZER/News-Democrat

Deputy to replace retiring Swansea police chief

Veteran cop spent 26 years in village

By SCOTT WUERZ
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SWANSEA — Dennis Fritz had to learn a lot of new names and faces in his 26 years with the village's Police Department.

Not only does it have 20 officers now compared to the five it

had back in 1978 when he started as a patrolman. But the village also has more than doubled in population and its acreage has nearly quadrupled over the years.

"When I got here we were a little bit isolated from the action," Fritz said. "But now, in addition to touching Belleville, our borders touch Shiloh, Fairview Heights and O'Fallon, too."

Fritz, who became police chief in 1996 when Ed Lintzenich

retired, hung up his own badge and gun this week. Deputy Chief Steve Krakowiecki, who has been with the department since 1981, has been chosen to take over the reins of the village's Police Department.

While the town has grown, Fritz said he is most proud of the fact that crime hasn't.

"Our crime stats are still low," Fritz said. "Naturally, when you have growth, you're going to

have problems. But I think we've been able to keep things under control because the Police Department has grown, too."

There has only been one murder in Swansea during his more than a quarter of a century with the Police Department, Fritz said. That happened in 1999 when Robert Kovacic

Please see **CHIEF, A2**

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LOTTERY FOR ILLINOIS
Pick 3-Midday: **1-1-9**
Pick 3-Double Draw: **3-8-6**
Pick 3-Evening: **0-2-3**
Pick 4-Midday: **1-2-4-0**

Pick 4-Evening: **8-6-1-3**
Little Lotto: **13-17-23-31-38**
Jackpot: **\$5.5 million**

FOR MISSOURI
Pick 3-Midday: **0-0-8**; Evening: **9-6-9**
Pick 4-Midday: **6-7-7-1**; Evening: **8-0-5-5**
Show Me 5-Midday: **6-8-11-19-28**
Show Me 5-Evening: **7-15-20-24-26**

