

## Cardinal Suggests Discussion About Changing Mandated Celibacy

Perhaps a better title for this would be "Retirement Brings Integrity".

Why is it that only after retirement most Church leaders feel free enough to speak what is really on their minds? Where was the Cardinal's voice while still in office? How many bishops while in office are silenced by fear?

Legion.

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*In a development quickly making its way around the tubes, Cardinal Egan -- now apostolic administrator of the nation's second-largest diocese until Archbishop Timothy Dolan's 14 April installation -- raised eyebrows with a statement on an Albany radio show yesterday that the matter of mandatory celibacy for Latin-rite priests "is going to be discussed.*

*"It's a perfectly legitimate discussion," the cardinal said of the millennium-old discipline.*

*"I think it has to be looked at, and I'm not so sure it wouldn't be a good idea to decide on the basis of geography and culture -- not to make an across-the-board determination."*

*Citing the experience of the church's Eastern rites, where clerics "do get married, no problem at all," Egan repeated the question, saying "Is it a closed issue? No -- that's not a dogmatic stand."*

*While the policy is, indeed, a disciplinary one and may be changed at any time by papal fiat, Cardinal Claudio Hummes was forced to retract similar comments made in the Brazilian press following his 2006 appointment as prefect for the Congregation for the Clergy, reiterating some months later that any discussion of a change in the marital disposition of Roman-rite priests was "not on the table."*

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