

Sacred Heart University President Re-elected to Head Federation

The International Federation of Catholic Universities elected Anthony J. Cernera, president of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., to his second three-year term as federation president.

Delegates from Africa, North America, South America, Asia, Europe and Australia voted to return the second lay president in the federation's history to office on the last day of the federation's 23rd international assembly, held Nov. 16-20 at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Three international vice presidents also were elected: Therese Lebrun, president of the Catholic University of Lille, France; Michael Calmano, president of Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan; and Pedro Rosso, rector of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile in Santiago.

Cernera heads a university, founded in 1963, that was the first Catholic institution of higher education in the United States designed to be led and staffed by laypeople, according to the federa-

tion's announcement on his election.

He had been one of the organization's three international vice presidents from 2000 until being elected president in 2006. He is the second American to serve as president. The first was Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, who was president of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana for 35 years.

Cernera's "first term was characterized by energy, collegial inventiveness, skillful strategic thinking and a deep commitment to global solidarity," said Michael W. Higgins, president of St. Thomas University in New Brunswick, Canada, and an assembly delegate.

The International Federation of Catholic Universities, which represents a broad spectrum of educational institutions, dates to 1924 and was formally recognized by Pope Pius XII in 1949. It has consultative status with institutions such as the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

Cernera has led Sacred Heart Uni-

versity since 1988. He also teaches religious studies every semester as a tenured professor. He serves on the boards of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. —CNS

