

# origins

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## Apostolic Letter Announcing New Financial Structures for Vatican

Pope Francis

In a move reflecting both his drive to reform the Vatican bureaucracy and his oft-stated desire to include laypeople in the leadership of the church, Pope Francis established a new panel, to include almost as many lay members as clerics, to oversee the finances of the Holy See and Vatican City State. Another new office, to be headed by Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, will implement the panel's policies. The Council for the Economy will include eight cardinals and bishops and seven lay experts with recognized professional financial competence. The lay members of the new

*“The church is conscious of her call to safeguard and carefully administer her goods in light of her mission of evangelization, with special care for the needy.”*

council will exercise an unprecedented level of responsibility for nonclerics in the Vatican, where the highest offices have always been reserved for cardinals and bishops. Reporting to the council will be the new Secretariat for the Economy, which will exercise authority over all the economic and administrative activities within the Holy See and the Vatican City State, including budget making, financial planning, hiring, procurement and the preparation of detailed financial statements. Pope Francis established the council and the secretariat with an apostolic letter given “*motu proprio*” (on his own initiative), dated Feb. 24, with the title “*Fidelis Dispensator et Prudens*” (“faithful and prudent steward”), a quotation from the Gospel according to St. Luke. The same letter provides for the appointment of an auditor-general, “who will be empowered to conduct audits of any agency of the Holy See and Vatican City State at any time.” The pope’s apostolic letter follows, copyright © 2014 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

**f**idelis dispensator et prudens” (Lk 12:42).

As the faithful and prudent administrator has a vocation to care attentively for those goods that have been entrusted to him, so the church is conscious of her call to safeguard and carefully administer her goods in light of her mission of evangelization, with special care for the needy. In particular, the responsibility of the economic and financial sectors of the

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