

Report says Vatican suspends five employees following raid

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Vatican apparently has suspended five employees after raids on Vatican offices.

Vatican police conducted a raid on offices in the Secretariat of State and its financial oversight office Oct. 1 following complaints of financial mismanagement, the Vatican press office said.

The following day, Italian magazine L'Espresso published an alleged internal notice from the Vatican informing of the "cautionary suspension" of five individuals.

The press office issued no statement on L'Espresso's report nor any clarification regarding the nature of the financial transactions or people being investigated.

In a statement published Oct. 1, the Vatican said the operation, which was authorized by Vatican chief prosecutor Gian Piero Milano and his deputy, Alessandro Diddi, led to the confiscation "of documents and electronic devices."

The raid, the statement said, "is related to complaints presented at the beginning of the summer by the Institute for the Works of Religion (Vatican bank) and the Office of the Auditor General, concerning financial transactions carried out over time."

The suspension order published by L'Espresso features photos of one woman and four men, including Msgr. Mauro Carlino, head of information and documentation at the Vatican Secretariat of State, and Tomasso Di Ruzza, director of the Financial Intelligence Authority.

While the alleged order bars them from entering Vatican City

State except to access health services or “if authorized by the Vatican magistrate,” it also states that Msgr. Carlino will continue to reside at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the Vatican residence where Pope Francis and members of the Roman Curia live.

In August, Pope Francis approved new statutes for the Vatican bank, including structural changes and a mandatory external audit.

Among the primary changes to the statutes is the inclusion of an external auditor which, according to the document, can be either an individual or a company proposed by the institute’s supervisory board and appointed by the Commission of Cardinals overseeing the bank’s work.

The external auditor, the statutes state, will “express opinions on the institute’s financial statements in a special report” and “examine all the books and accounting documents.” The auditor may also “request any information useful for auditing activities.”