

Atlanta Archbishop Apologizes for Lavish Living, May Sell Mansion

The Roman Catholic archbishop of Atlanta has apologized for building a \$2.2 million mansion to use as his home, a move that made him the object of derision and complaint, and said he may sell it.

Archbishop Wilton Gregory said he took his “eye off the ball” after the archdiocese received a \$15 million donation from the estate of Joseph Mitchell, a nephew of *Gone With The Wind* author, Margaret Mitchell.

Pope Francis has been urging Roman Catholic officials to live simpler lives and has renounced the papal apartments in the Vatican palace for modest quarters in a Church guest house.

The Vatican removed a German bishop—dubbed the “bishop of bling”—last month from his job because he spent 31 million euros (\$43 million) on a residence where fittings included a bath that cost 15,000 euros and private chapel.

In Monday’s edition of *The Georgia Bulletin*, the newspaper for the Atlanta archdiocese, Gregory wrote: “While my advisers and I were able to justify this project fiscally, logistically and practically, I personally failed to project the cost in terms of my own integrity and pastoral credibility with the people of God of north and central Georgia.”

He also said in the newspaper column that the archdiocese would begin the process of selling the mansion “if it is the will” of Church and other advisers.

A Vatican spokesman said he had no comment.

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