

Cardinal speaks on laity, sexuality

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

IRONDEQUOIT — Church authorities who commission lay people to perform sacramental duties but at the same time exclude those members from governing the church's financial affairs are merely providing them with "candy," according to Cardinal Edouard Gagnon.

The president of the Pontifical Commission for International Eucharistic Congresses and the past president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, Cardinal Gagnon made his remarks during an afternoon press conference Friday, Sept. 17. The press conference took place inside the rectory at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4536 St. Paul Blvd.

The Montreal native and close personal friend of Pope John Paul II was the featured speaker at a Sept. 17 dinner marking both the 25th anniversaries of *Humanae Vitae* — Pope Paul VI's encyclical on human sexuality — and the lay organization, Catholics United for the Faith.

The banquet, held at The Party House, 677 Beahan Road, Rochester, also featured Father John Hardon, SJ, a consultant to the former and new catechisms for the Catholic Church, and Father Albert Shamon, author, lecturer, spiritual director and columnist.

One of the contributing authors to the landmark Vatican II document *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, Cardinal Gagnon believes that clerical and lay Catholics have misinterpreted the document's emphasis on the laity's role. The document was intended to encourage lay Catholics to offer the church their worldly expertise — not to encourage the creation of a lay



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Cardinal Edouard Gagnon, president of the Pontifical Commission for International Eucharistic Congresses, answers questions during a Sept. 17 press conference at Rochester's Holy Apostles Church.

clergy, he said.

"Do not think you're promoting the laity when you give them the specialty of clerics," Cardinal Gagnon said at the press conference. "Those in authority have found it easier to give them these certain activities than to really include them in real activity."

Barring necessity, sacramental duties should be the ordained's exclusive domain, the cardinal emphasized, whereas the laity should have far more say in the church's financial affairs — particularly in the area of Catholic schools.

"All those schools opened through the great sacrifices of families," he emphasized.

The cardinal's assertion that the church's post-Vatican II emphasis on the laity has been misdirected echoed his assertion that Pope Paul VI's 1968

encyclical *Humanae Vitae* — which condemned artificial birth control — has been misinterpreted.

"Most of the things that have been said or written against *Humanae Vitae* are by people who haven't read it," he said. "The world should open its eyes and see that everything that Pope Paul was saying has happened."

In his encyclical, Pope Paul VI predicted that the spread of artificial birth control would be accompanied by an increase in non-marital cohabitation, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, abortion and divorce.

Catholics could learn more about the papal pronouncement through marriage-preparation courses, the cardinal emphasized, claiming such courses emphasize "mere psychology" by concentrating on such issues as "family budgets."

Organist to perform

PITTSFORD — David Craigh-ead, an internationally well-known concert organist and professor of organ at the Eastman School of Music, will perform a dedication concert on the new organ at St. Louis Church, 60 S. Main St., at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 26. The free concert is open to the public.

Craigh-ead will perform the "Concerto in A Minor" by Bach; "Hymn Preludes for the Church Year;" and improvisation on "Victimae Paschali Laudes," by Charles Tournemire. He will be joined by his wife, organist Marian Craigh-ead, on "Concerto in D Major" by Antonio Soler, and the "Sonata in D Minor, Op. 30" by Gustav Merkel.

A recording artist and the recipient of numerous awards for his work, Craigh-ead was voted the 1983 international performer of the year by the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In 1975, he was the first person to receive the Eisenhart Award for teaching excellence at the Eastman School.

Marianna Sheehan, a St. Louis parishioner, gave the organ to the parish in memory of her late husband, Harold.

The 25-rank, Visser-Rowland pipe organ, made in Houston, Texas, contains several religious symbols in its design. The overall instrument represents a crown, with a secondary symbol of a dove. Three large pipe towers symbolize the Trinity, while each tower contains seven pipes that represent the symbol of forgiveness. Seven areas of pipes represent the days of creation, and the trumpet pipes and center tower form a cross.

Auburn bracing for white group's march

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

Auburn's civic and church leaders are urging residents to ignore a downtown march by self-proclaimed white supremacists on Saturday, Sept. 25, the Jewish high holiday of Yom Kippur.

"All of us are emphasizing that if nobody is on Genesee Street (during the march), that would be fine," noted Father P. Paul Brennan, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, 90 Melrose Road, Auburn, and its mission parish, St. Ann Church, Main Street, Owasco.

In fact, Father Brennan observed, an ecumenical coalition of churches has scheduled a prayer service at the same time as the march, scheduled for 3 p.m. at City Hall. Marchers will end their demonstration at Freedom Park, a memorial to Harriet Tubman, an Auburn resident who helped fight slavery in the 19th century.

The ecumenical service is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. inside Ss. Peter and John Episcopal Church, 173 Genesee St. The area's Jewish community worked together with the city's Christian churches to plan the service, Father Brennan said.

The Auburn pastor added that Sacred Heart Parish will host a special Mass to pray for racial harmony at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 25.

Father Brennan also reported that the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has scheduled an Oct. 2 march from Syracuse to Auburn's Freedom Park in response to the white supremacists' march.

The Sept. 25 demonstration was or-

ganized by the Philadelphia-based United States of America Nationalist Party. That group's members had attempted to establish a commune in Auburn last year, but that effort stopped when one of the organizers was arrested for allegedly shooting and wounding a neighbor. Faced with adverse publicity and opposition from community and civic leaders, the group's members left town shortly thereafter.

In June of this year, however, the Philadelphia group's leaders announced that they would hold the march in Auburn on one of the holiest days in the Jewish year.

Meanwhile, other groups vowed to hold protests to counter the march, raising concerns about potential violence among local officials and residents. In addition to asking for assistance from Auburn-area police agencies, civic leaders have asked that even well-intentioned counter-protesters stay away from downtown to reduce the potential for violence.

A climate of fear has indeed descended upon the Cayuga County city at this time, observed Father Conrad J. Sundholm, pastor of Auburn's Holy Family Parish, 85 North St., and St. Aloysius Parish, 162 Van Anden St.

"The City of Auburn is terrified," Father Sundholm reported. "They think there's going to be a shooting war."

Father Robert L. Beligotti said he has also sensed fear among city residents.

"What we've been told is to kind of stay in doors and not provoke (the marchers and counter-protesters) — other than going to the prayer ser-

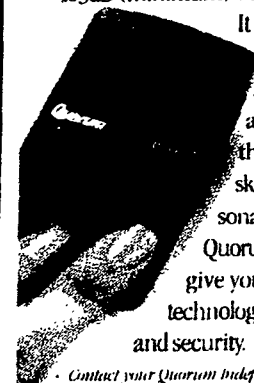
vice," noted Father Beligotti, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 185 Clark St., Auburn.

"Our older people are very frightened," Father Beligotti continued. "On Sunday (Sept. 19), two ladies came to me with votive candles and asked me to bless them. They said they were going to light them while (the white supremacists) are marching — to protect Auburn.

"We're trying to demonstrate a united front in prayer," Father Beligotti added. "It's the only way to stem this outrage."

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ROCHESTER — The Islamic Center and Temple B'rith Kodesh will host a service of praise and hope at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 28. The service will take place at Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

The event will celebrate the recent peace accord signed by Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The accord has led to mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, and the creation of a framework for Palestinian autonomy.

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