

Auxiliary is named Buffalo's bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Auxiliary Bishop Henry J. Mansell of New York to be bishop of Buffalo.

He succeeds Bishop Edward D. Head, bishop of Buffalo since 1973, who turned 75 last August.

Bishop Mansell, 57, was ordained a bishop Jan. 6, 1993, and has been New York archdiocesan vicar for administration and moderator of the curia.

His appointment was announced in Washington by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, papal pro-nuncio to the United States.

He is to take up his new post in installation ceremonies in Buffalo June 12.

Henry J. Mansell was born in New York City Oct. 10, 1937. He was ordained in Rome Dec. 19, 1962, after studies at Cathedral College High School and College in New York, St. Joseph Seminary in Dunwoodie, N.Y., and the North American College in Rome, where he was a classmate of Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

As a priest in the New York archdiocese, he served as chancellor, vice chan-

cellor and director of priest personnel, archdiocesan chaplain of the Christian Family Movement and chairman of the priests' senate.

He was named a bishop Nov. 24, 1992. The following Jan. 6 he was one of 11 men Pope John Paul ordained to the episcopate at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

As a bishop he was the first to hold the post of vicar for administration in the New York archdiocese. In that capacity he has served as archdiocesan liaison with government agencies of New York City.

As Cardinal John J. O'Connor's representative in the bitter six-month nurses' strike at Mercy Community Hospital in Port Jervis, he insisted that the hospital, not owned by the archdiocese, follow archdiocesan policy against hiring permanent replacements for strikers. The strike ended this March when the Mercy Sisters, sponsors of the hospital, took control of the board and ordered the management to make a settlement in accord with that policy.

Bishop Head, who was born in White

Plains, N.Y., Aug. 5, 1919, was also a priest and auxiliary bishop of the New York archdiocese before he became bishop of Buffalo.

Ordained a priest in 1945, he earned a master's degree in social work from Columbia University, held various pastoral assignments in the archdiocese, and was archdiocesan director of Catholic Charities when he was named a bishop in 1970.

He was named bishop of Buffalo Jan. 23, 1973, and installed that March. In his first year there, he ordered a thorough study of the church's role in the inner city in order to improve services to the poor and minorities.

In 1990, when all the bishops of the Appalachian region from New York to Alabama reissued their 1975 joint pastoral letter, "This Land Is Home to Me," he and Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond, Va., were the only two original signers still around to sign it anew.

The Buffalo diocese encompasses eight counties of Western New York and has about 758,000 Catholics in a total population of 1.6 million.

Pope speaks of war, life during Easter

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Evoking the modern Calvary of war and Christ's message of peace and eternal life, Pope John Paul II led four days of Easter ceremonies in Rome and at the Vatican.

In an Easter blessing to the world April 16, the pope said the church's Gospel of life contrasts with the "all too many signs of death" in today's culture, especially conflict among nations.

Guiding a rain-dampened Way of the Cross on Good Friday, he used meditations prepared by a Protestant woman religious, and for the first time had others carry the wooden cross used in the service — three women and three men.

On Holy Thursday, the pope celebrated Mass in a Rome church and washed the feet of 12 elderly priests, imitating Jesus' gesture at the Last Supper.

He also found time to hear confessions in St. Peter's Basilica and preside over a lengthy Easter vigil, culminating in the announcement of Christ's resurrection.

The effort of leading the liturgical ceremonies sometimes showed in the expression of the 74-year-old pontiff, particularly as he maneuvered the steps and stairs at Rome's Colosseum during the late-night Way of the Cross.

But the pope was in full form and full voice as he celebrated Easter Mass and then, from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, offered greetings in 57 languages. His blessing "urbi et orbi" ("to the city of Rome and the world") was televised to some 65 countries.

"The church proclaims the Gospel of life, with the power of the one who has vanquished death," he said.

"Christ opens the way of life! To families torn apart by war, to the victims of hatred and violence, as in Algeria, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Burundi and in southern Sudan, the church does not hesitate to renew the paschal message of peace," he said.

To peoples waiting for their "deepest aspirations" to be recognized, like the Palestinians and Kurds, the church proposes dialogue as the only path toward a solution, he said.

And to those tempted to put their hopes in armed struggle, as in the Caucasus and in Ecuador and Peru, the church at Easter insists that violence contradicts human dignity, he said.

The Easter Mass was moved inside the church because of rain and cold, and the estimated 100,000 flowers donated by the Netherlands overflowed the main altar.

The night before, the pope stayed up past midnight for the Easter vigil. During the service he baptized 12 adults from Albania, China, Indonesia, South Korea and the United States, and led the dramatic lighting of candles in the darkened basilica.

Throughout the Easter events, the pope highlighted the role of women. He said it was significant that the first witnesses of the resurrection were, in fact, the women who knew Jesus.

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