

WORLD & NATION

Military archbishop welcomed in Washington

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — America's Catholic military chaplains, soldiers and veterans welcomed Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien as the new coadjutor archbishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services and at the same time remembered the nation's war dead during a Memorial Day weekend Mass in Washington.

The May 25 Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was marked by the playing of "Taps" in honor of "those who died for their country and their fellow citizens," said Military Services Archbishop Joseph T. Dimino.

In his homily, Auxiliary Bishop Charles J. McDonnell of Newark, N.J., said, "Today we pause to honor those who gave their lives for this country" in the "too many conflicts this nation has faced."

Bishop McDonnell, the former chief of Army chaplains, likened the soldier's ultimate sacrifice to the Gospel adage, "Greater love has no man than to lay

down his life for a friend."

Civilians are rarely called to "sacrifice to the same extent that our heroes have," he said.

Bishop McDonnell urged the assembly to "make Christ a priority. Take him with us wherever we go."

In military life, "if each person doesn't fully do his job, the unit will not succeed," he said, adding it is also true in civilian life, whether in the law, family life, factories, academia or religion.

In welcoming Archbishop O'Brien, a former auxiliary bishop of New York, to the military archdiocese, Bishop McDonnell said, "The Holy Father has given us a great priest.... Those who serve our country are his love."

Once an Army chaplain himself, Archbishop O'Brien served five years in the Army, including a tour of duty in Vietnam.

"He is known as a soldier's chaplain," Bishop McDonnell said. "He is a very talented and deeply spiritual leader."

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, Archbishop O'Brien's boss before

the new appointment, took note of the fact that Archbishop Dimino and his predecessor, retired Archbishop Joseph T. Ryan, had both been Navy chaplains.

"Our Holy Father said to me," Cardinal O'Connor said, launching into his best papal impersonation, "The Navy has had a lock on this too long. Give me an Army man." And that's why Archbishop O'Brien has been appointed.

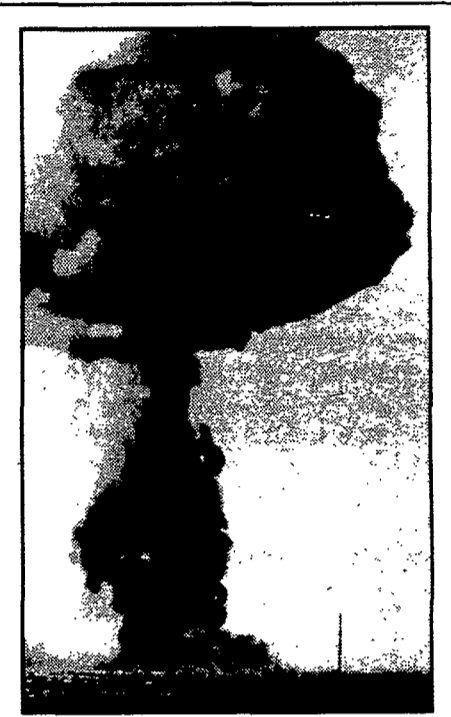
In meeting with the pope after the appointment was announced, Cardinal O'Connor said he told the pontiff, "Holy Father, you have given New York a great honor by taking one of our bishops to be coadjutor of the armed forces, but you have taken away my right arm."

In brief remarks before the Mass ended, Archbishop O'Brien asked the assembly "to pray for your dead and for one who is still living. And I hope to be living for a long time with you."

He noted that the first Mass he celebrated after priestly ordination 32 years ago was at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., also on the feast of the Holy Trinity.

Archbishop O'Brien, who will succeed Archbishop Dimino upon his retirement, said the military archdiocese has in its newest prelate "a friend, an admirer, and a soul in search of salvation."

"I long to be brother and father to you, but I need your counsel and understanding," he said.



CNS/Reuters

Land mines destroyed

In a move welcomed by the Catholic Church, South Africa became the first African nation to destroy stockpiles of anti-personnel land mines, blowing up 4,700 mines at a military base May 21. According to its defense minister, South Africa country plans to destroy all 250,000 land mines in its arsenal.

Gay coalition protests Boston bishop's directive

BOSTON (CNS) — Dignity/USA has protested a bishop's note sent to Boston archdiocesan priests and deacons asking them not to lend any support to Dignity's national convention in Boston this summer.

In a monthly circular letter to Boston clergy, Auxiliary Bishop William F. Murphy, archdiocesan vicar general and moderator of the curia, said the Dignity convention in July "should not receive our support" in view of the organization's opposition to church teaching that homosexual activity is immoral.

Dignity is an unofficial organization for Catholics who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and

what the group describes as "transgendered," and for their friends and families.

Marianne Duddy, president of Dignity/USA, said the organization did not expect support from the archdiocese, but "this prohibition goes far beyond a lack of support. It's a clear statement that the church in Boston refuses even to have dialogue with us."

Duddy added, "I would have hoped, in these days of the late (Chicago) Cardinal (Joseph) Bernardin's Common Ground Initiative, we would be beyond this kind of pettiness."

John B. Walsh, Boston archdiocesan secretary for community relations, called Dud-

dy's statement "completely disingenuous."

"There's nothing new in (Bishop Murphy's letter). It echoes what Cardinal Bernardin said in 1988," Walsh told Catholic News Service.

In 1988 Cardinal Bernardin said Dignity could no longer be a sponsor, even unofficially, of a weekly Mass for homosexual Catholics in a Chicago parish. He continued the Mass but severed its connection with Dignity.

Cardinal Bernardin said he acted because Dignity had recently adopted the "unacceptable" position of advocacy for a change in church teachings on the morality of homosexual acts.

CALENDAR

All Dioceses

Fundraisers

■ **TUE, JUNE 3 — Dinner:** to benefit the Women's Scholarship Committee of St. Bernard's Institute; Kearney Hall, St. John Fisher College; 6:30 p.m.; Msgr. William Shannon, speaker; for reservations call 716/381-2845 or 716/654-8960.

Chemung Schuyler

Fundraisers

■ **FRI, JUNE 6 — Sweepstakes '97:** to benefit Holy Family Catholic Schools; Elmira College Campus Center; \$100 per couple includes unlimited gourmet food and drink and a chance for cash prizes, gift certificates, savings bonds; for tickets call 607/734-6339.

Religious Activities

■ **SAT, MAY 31 — March for Jesus:** gathering behind the Human Resource Building, South Main and Pennsylvania Ave., Elmira; 10 a.m.

Social Activities

■ **MON, JUNE 2 —**

Dinner: sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Horseheads Council 6158; Jennifer's Restaurant, Elmira-Corning Regional Airport; 7 p.m.; \$10.

■ **THU, JUNE 5 — Spring banquet:** Ladies of Charity; Granny's Restaurant, 201 Prescott Ave., Elmira Heights; following 4:30 p.m. Mass at St. Casimir's Church; call Bobbie Masny, 607/739-7759.

Monroe County

Fundraisers

■ **FRI, MAY 30 — Registration deadline:** for June 9 Golf Tournament to benefit Catholic Charities Community & Residential Services; Greystone Golf Club, 1400 Atlantic Ave., Walworth; 10 a.m.; call 716/339-9800.

■ **FRI, MAY 30 — Wine tasting:** hosted by the Seton Women's Group of St. Mary's Hospital; Four Points ITT Sheraton (formerly Holiday Inn); 7-10 p.m.; tickets may be purchased by calling 716/464-3255; proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Enrico Fermi Health and Wellness Center to be located at School 17.

■ **SAT, MAY 31 — Auction:** to benefit Holy Rosary School, 420 Lexington Ave., Rochester; pizza & salad supper, 6 p.m.; \$5

per person, \$10 per family; Carol Ritter, auctioneer.

Meetings

■ **FRI, MAY 30 — Talk:** "Assisted Suicide: The Legal Landscape"; sponsored by Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, Inc.; Education Center Auditorium at Park Ridge Hospital, 1555 Long Pond Rd., Greece; 7-9 p.m.; free (donations accepted); for more information call 716/377-4115.

■ **SAT, MAY 31 — Conference:** "Defining Domestic Violence"; co-sponsored by Spanish Apostolate of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, Alternatives for Battered Women, and the Hispanic Prevention/Education Program of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1089 Joseph Ave., Rochester; \$7; day-long; presented in Spanish with simultaneous interpretation into English; to register call Brother Ruberte, 716/328-3210 or 800/388-7177, ext. 332.

■ **MON, JUNE 2 — Meeting:** "Dealing Daily with Health Promoting Practices"; sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center; 402 Rogers Pky., Rochester; 4-5:30 p.m.; \$10; call 716/336-4370.

■ **TUE, JUNE 3 — Registration deadline:** for Sun., June 8 conference on spiritual, legal, medical and ethical

dimensions of dying; presented by the Church of the Holy Spirit, 1355 Hatch Road, Webster; 2-5 p.m.; \$2; for reservations call 716/671-5520.

■ **THU, JUNE 5 — Meeting:** "Health Promoting Practices"; sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center, 402 Rogers Parkway, Rochester; 8-9 a.m.; \$10; call 716/336-4370.

Religious Activities

■ **FRI, MAY 30 — Registration deadline:** for July 28-31 guided retreat "Dreams and Prayer"; SSJ Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester; to register, call Sr. Judy Reger, 716/586-1000, ext. 177.

■ **SUN, JUNE 1 — Benediction:** of the Blessed Sacrament, choral evening prayer; St. Anne Church, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester; 4 p.m.

■ **SUN, JUNE 1 — "Salsa Mass":** English Mass with a Latin beat; sponsored by the Community of Hope Cluster; Mt. Carmel Church, 60 Woodward St., Rochester; 6 p.m.; for more information call Elizabeth, 716/482-3211.

Social Activities

■ **TUE, JUNE 3 — Picnic:** sponsored by Bishop Kearney Parents' Alumni Council; White House Lodge, Webster Park; \$8 per person, \$4 for children under 12; call 716/342-4000.

Steuben County

Fundraisers

■ **SUN, JUNE 1 — Chicken barbecue:** and art show; to benefit St. Joseph's School, 209 Fremont St., Wayland; noon-3 p.m.

Religious Activities

■ **SUN, JUNE 1 — Mass:** St. Vincent de Paul Church, 222 Dodge Ave., Corning; 9 a.m.; followed by brunch at the Radisson; sponsored by Court St. Joseph 139, Catholic Daughters of the Americas; for more information call Connie, 607/936-3663.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Religious Activities

■ **SUN, JUNE 1 — Corpus Christi Procession:** St. Bridget's/St. Joseph's, Bloomfield; 9:30 a.m.

Social Activities

■ **SUN, JUNE 1 — Parish fair:** St. Dominic's Church, 6 Canandaigua St., Shortsville; 1-5 p.m.