

WORLD & NATION

Bishop Egan named N.Y. archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By one measure, Bridgeport, Conn., is just 50 miles from New York City.

By another measure, the Diocese of Bridgeport, with 88 parishes and 361,000 Catholics, is a world away from the Archdiocese of New York, which has 2.4 million very diverse Catholics in 413 parishes.

But according to a number of his fellow U.S. bishops, Archbishop Edward M. Egan is just the man to bridge the differences.

Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Egan, 68, as archbishop of New York, succeeding the late Cardinal John J. O'Connor, who died May 3. He was named the ninth archbishop of New York May 11, after serving 12 years as bishop of Bridgeport.

Archbishop Egan is a Chicago-area native and canon lawyer who served 12 years as a judge in the Roman Rota, the church's central appellate court.

Reacting to the appointment, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston said Archbishop Egan was "a good shepherd and gentle father of the flock in Bridgeport" who would bring those same qualities to his service in New York.

"His knowledge of canon law combined with compassion and a love for justice made him an outstanding member of that Roman tribunal," he added.

Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington, too, praised the new archbishop's expertise in church law, and said he has "a profound understanding of philosophy and theology and speaks fluent Italian and Spanish."

Remembering Archbishop Egan's earlier service as auxiliary bishop and vicar for education in the New York Archdiocese,



Cardinal Hickey said, "Both in New York and in Bridgeport, he showed himself a friend and advocate of Catholic schools and Catholic social services, dedicating himself to serving those in need."

And during a Mass at his Buffalo cathedral, Bishop Henry J. Mansell — mentioned among possible candidates to succeed Cardinal O'Connor — said he planned to write Archbishop Egan, offering the prayers and support of the Buffalo Diocese.

He also said he would offer "a prayer of thanksgiving" at being allowed to remain the bishop of Buffalo.

Archbishop Egan was a New York auxiliary bishop for three years under Cardinal O'Connor and was archdiocesan vicar of education there before he was named to head the Bridgeport Diocese in November 1988. He was installed the following month.

In Bridgeport, he oversaw a program to regionalize the diocese's elementary schools and helped raise millions of dollars for education programs and to support religious and homes for retired clergy.

He also was part of the creation by the state's bishops of the Connecticut Federation of Catholic Schools in 1990 to lobby for legislative support and encourage enrollment.

The Catholic population of Bridgeport has grown during his tenure there, from 331,000 in 1988 to 361,000 now, according to the Official Catholic Directory. But at

the same time, the number of active diocesan priests has shrunk, from 223 to 183, and the number of parishes has gone from 91 to 88.

Archbishop Egan will be moving to the second largest U.S. archdiocese, which has a Catholic population of about 2.4 million and has 413 parishes and 585 active diocesan priests.

The New York Archdiocese, which includes Manhattan, Bronx and Staten Island and seven upstate counties, is home to 238 Catholic elementary schools, two diocesan seminaries, two seminaries run by religious orders and 12 Catholic colleges and universities. Archbishop Egan also will have the assistance of a half dozen auxiliary bishops in his new see.

Edward Michael Egan was born in Oak Park, Ill., on April 2, 1932. He studied at Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago, St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Ill., and the Gregorian University in Rome.

He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in December 1957 and, after an early assignment to Holy Name Cathedral parish, served as assistant chancellor and secretary to Cardinal Albert Meyer of Chicago until 1960. Then he was named assistant vice rector of the North American College in Rome. While there, he earned a doctorate in canon law from Gregorian University.

Upon his return to Chicago in 1964, he served as assistant chancellor until 1968 and then as co-chancellor for human relations and ecumenism from 1968 to 1972. He also was secretary to Cardinal John Cody. In 1972 he returned to Rome as a judge in the Roman Rota.

Agca claims divine role

ROME (CNS) — After the Vatican said the third secret of Fatima foretold the 1981 assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II, the Turkish gunman in that attack proclaimed himself an "unwitting instrument" in a divine plan.

Mehmet Ali Agca, who is serving a life sentence in an Italian prison for shooting and seriously wounding the pope in 1981, said through his lawyer May 14 that he felt relieved from the weight of responsibility by the disclosure of the secret.

"I was an unwitting instrument in a mysterious design. Now I know this with certainty," Agca was quoted as saying by his lawyer, Marina Magistrelli. Agca said he would further explain his thoughts in a letter to the pope on the occasion of the pontiff's 80th birthday May 18.

Magistrelli said Agca had watched TV coverage of the pope's Mass at Fatima, Portugal, May 13 when Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, announced that the "third secret" said to have been revealed by Mary to three children in 1917 involved a prediction of a war waged by atheistic systems against the church.

The message also referred to a "bishop clothed in white" who "falls to the ground, apparently dead under a burst of gunfire," Cardinal Sodano said.

CALENDAR

All Diocesan

Meetings

■ **SUN, MAY 21 — Talk:** "The Changing Role of Health Care"; Catholic Golden Age Prince of Peace Chapter; Christ the King Parish Hall, 445 Kings Hwy. S., Irondequoit; 2 p.m.; 716/467-3398.

Chemung Schuyler

Meetings

■ **THU, MAY 18 — Grief support group:** Big Flats United Methodist Church, 3049 Hillview Dr., Big Flats; 6-7:30 p.m.; call Pamela Gee 607/733-9068, ext. 17.

Livingston County

Religious Activities

■ **WED, MAY 24 — Pray the rosary:** WDNV Radio, 1400 AM, Dansville; 6:30 p.m.; every Wed.

Monroe County

Fundraisers

■ **SAT, MAY 20 — Spaghetti**

dinner: benefit of St. Thomas the Apostle Boy Scout Troop 151; St. Thomas the Apostle School Hall, 4536 St. Paul Blvd., W. Irondequoit; 5-7 p.m.; for reservations call 716/339-2245.

■ **SAT, MAY 20 — Car wash:** benefit of All Saints Catholic Jr. High Softball Team; Gil Tegg's Mobil Station, 671 Brooks Ave., Rochester; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 716/429-6010.

■ **SUN, MAY 21 — Auction:** for mission trip to build homes in Appalachian Mountains, KY; Parish Center, Holy Name of Jesus Church, 15 St. Martin's Way, Greece; 1-4 p.m.; call Anne 716/621-6343.

■ **THU, MAY 25 — Registration deadline:** for June 15 golf tournament; to benefit charities sponsored by Rev. Paul J. Cuddy Knights of Columbus; Shadow Pines Golf Course, 600 Whalen Rd., Penfield; \$75/golfer; 9 a.m.; Ted Pittinano 716/671-4270.

■ **THU, MAY 25 — Marathon:** to benefit St. Charles Borromeo School, 64 Maiden Lane, Rochester; to pledge call 716/663-1220.

Meetings

■ **FRI, MAY 26 — Registration deadline:** for June 5 book of the month club; *Proclaim Jubilee* by Maria Harris; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; noon-1:30 p.m.; 716/473-6893.

Religious Activities

■ **SUN, MAY 21 — Evening of reflection:** "Holy Spirit — Our Spirit"; sponsored by City East Parishes; Church of the

Annunciation, 1754 Norton St., Rochester; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; 716/482-5285.

■ **MON, MAY 22 — Novena:** to Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1089 Joseph Ave., Rochester; 7 p.m.; followed by adult study group to discuss *Awareness* by Anthony DeMello; Mondays in May & June; 716/266-8741.

■ **THU, MAY 25 — Registration deadline:** for June 1 "Day at High Acres, Geneva"; Therese Richardson, RSM, leader; sponsored by Mercy Prayer Center; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; \$20; 716/473-6893.

■ **FRI, MAY 26 — Registration deadline:** for June 3 Sabbath Saturday; your own "fallow time"; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; free; 716/473-6893.

■ **FRI, MAY 26 — Registration deadline:** for June 2-3 "Body-Mind-Spirit Getaway"; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; Fri. 6:15 p.m.-Sat. after breakfast; \$25 overnight plus \$25 half-hour massage or \$45 full body massage; 716/473-6893.

Social Activities

■ **SUN, MAY 21 — Annual spring concert:** Our Lady of Mercy High School auditorium, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester; 2 p.m.; performances by Mercy Show Choir, Women's Chorus, Middle School and High School Orchestra; offering.

■ **SUN, MAY 21 — Singles breakfast:** Liftbridge Cafe, 6 N. Main St., Fairport; 10 a.m.; preceded by Mass, Assumption of

Our Lady Church, 20 East Ave., Fairport; 9 a.m.; for reservations call 716/377-4948 or e-mail mecoon@quixnet.net.

■ **MON, MAY 22 — Reservation deadline:** for June 4 brunch; "The Restoration of the Church: a Work in Progress"; St. Andrew's Church, 923 Portland Ave., Rochester; Mass 11:15 a.m.; brunch 12:30-2 p.m.; \$12.50 adults, \$8 children ages 4-8; 716/342-8686.

Steuben County

Fundraisers

■ **Donations requested:** for 10-foot black barre granite cross with white highlighted etching of Christ on the cross; St. Mary's Cemetery, Rexville; donors will be recognized on memorial plaque; Ronald & Jolene Meehan 607/225-4997, David Bradley 607/225-4237.

Religious Activities

■ **SUN, MAY 21 — Televised Mass:** cable channel 13, channel 48; 10-11 a.m.; videotaped Sat. 4:30 p.m.; St. Patrick's Church, Corning.

Tompkin Tioga

Fundraisers

■ **MAY 20, 21 — Flower/garden sale:** St. Patrick School parking lot, 309

Front St., Owego; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; for advance orders call Janet Krasniak 607/785-2182.

Religious Activities

■ **MAY 22, JUNE 5, 12 — Bible study:** "Searching for the Historical Jesus"; Fr. George Heyman, presenter; Parish Hall, St. John the Evangelist Church, 24 Rock St., Newark Valley; 7-8:30 p.m.; \$3; sponsored by Tioga Regional Center; 607/689-0427.

■ **MAY 18, 22 — Bible basics:** introduction to reading and praying the Scriptures; organizational meeting May 18; McAuley Center, St. Patrick Church, 300 Main St., Owego; 7-8:30 p.m.; May 22: St. James Church library, 503 Clark St., Waverly; 10-11:30 a.m.; \$10 book fee; sponsored by Tioga Regional Center; 607/689-0427.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Meetings

■ **SAT, MAY 27 — Support group:** divorced, separated, bereaved; Log Cabin Restaurant, Rt. 31F, Macedon Center; 9 a.m.; call Eleanor 315/597-9558.

submit your event listing on our website at www.catholiccourier.com