

Pope names record-high number of cardinals

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named a record-high 37 new cardinals from 22 countries Jan. 21, including three from the United States: Cardinals-designate Edward M. Egan of New York, Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington and Avery Dulles, an 82-year-old Jesuit theologian.

The new cardinals, who will formally accept their position at a consistory at the Vatican Feb. 21, include 12 Vatican administrators and nine residential archbishops from Latin America — by far the largest such group from any continent.

The biggest surprise was the size of the pope's list. Once again, the pope waived the church's technical limit of 120 cardinals who are under age 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a papal conclave. He named 33 new voting-age cardinals, which means that, barring any deaths, the total will be 128 by the time of the Feb. 21 consistory.

With the new appointments, Pope John Paul will have left an even stronger personal mark on the College of Cardinals, having named 118 of the 128 elector-cardinals and 154 of the 178 cardinals overall. The 178 total was a record-high for the college, which has grown rapidly in recent decades.

Additionally, the pope said he planned



Avery Dulles

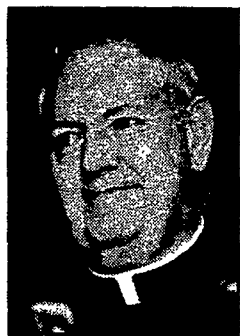
to divulge soon the names of two cardinals he created "in pectore" or in secret in 1998. Speculation has focused on prelates working in Russia and China.

Announcing the list at his Sunday blessing above St. Peter's

Square, the pope said many of the new cardinals were pastors who spend their time and energy "in direct contact with the faithful. ... These new prelates come from various parts of the world. Their ranks well reflect the church's universality and multiplicity of ministries," he said.

The pope said many others might have merited the appointment and that he hoped he could name them in the future — an oblique response to those who have suggested that, having set a full roster for a potential conclave, the 80-year-old pontiff might choose to retire.

The new appointments included three voting-age cardinals from Asia, two from



Edward M. Egan

North America and one from Africa.

Largely because of the Vatican nominations, Europe picked up 15 under-80 cardinals, which will leave the continent with 60 potential members of a conclave — about half the total.

Italy alone would account for 24 voting-age cardinals; seven of the new nominations are Italian.

Latin America added 10 voting members with the new appointments, strengthening its position with 26 electors. By comparison, North America and Asia would have 13 each, Africa 12, and Oceania 4.

The Latin American residential archbishops who will become cardinals come from eight different countries, representing archdioceses with an average Catholic population of 3.5 million. They include Cardinal-designate Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne of Lima, Peru, the first cardinal member of the Opus Dei personal prela-

More coverage of appointments may be found on Page 4.

ture, and Honduran Cardinal-designate Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, 58, who has emerged as an important regional church leader.

The appointments of Cardinals-designate Egan, McCarrick and Dulles will bring to 13 the number of U.S. cardinals; all but Cardinal-designate Dulles and retired Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington, 80, would be eligible to vote in a conclave. Only Italy and the United States would have more than 10 voting-age cardinals.

Perhaps the pope's most unusual nomination was that of Cardinal-designate Roberto Tucci, a priest and Vatican Radio director who has carried out the detailed planning for all of Pope John Paul's foreign trips. He turns 80 in April.

The pope did not explain the discrepancy between the ceiling of 120 voting cardinals in a conclave — which he confirmed in his own document on conclave rules in 1996 — and the fact that the new appointments will clearly leave more than that.

Leaving aside the possibility of deaths, it would be May 2002 before the aging process would reduce the number to 120.



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Inside This Week



Sisters of Mercy mourn loss
Sr. Maurice Pearson killed in accident
— Page 3



Greece parish growing by leaps
People begging to be on committee
— Page 12

What does Ashcroft flap mean for Catholics?

Gone is the fanfare in Washington created by the presidential inauguration and the March for Life. Yet, as of Jan. 23, there was still no closure for another major event in the nation's capital.

The issue at hand: Sen. John Ashcroft's fitness for carrying out the role of U.S. attorney general.

During four days of Senate Judiciary Committee hearings leading up to the inauguration, Ashcroft endured some of the most intense scrutiny in recent years for a Cabinet nominee. It appeared likely that Ashcroft's nomination would be approved — but not before committee members took him to task for fear that his anti-abortion stance and open expression of his religious convictions might influence how he carries out his job as attorney general.

Catholic officials interviewed for this story — though wary of Ashcroft's record on such consistent life ethic-related issues as capital punishment and service to the poor — applauded the Republican's staunch opposition to abortion. In addition, they expressed admiration for the Christian beliefs held by Ashcroft, who belongs to the Assemblies of God.

"I think John Ashcroft comes to the forefront because he doesn't leave his faith at the door," said Father Brian Cool, chairperson of the Rochester diocesan



Public Policy Committee. "It seems to me that the general consensus among people is, they do expect the politician to leave his faith at the door."

Particularly in the Senate, it appears. The judiciary committee has questioned Ashcroft at length for his religious convictions and how they relate to such issues as racism, service to the poor, gun control, gay rights, the environment and tolerance of other religions — in-

Continued on page 10

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