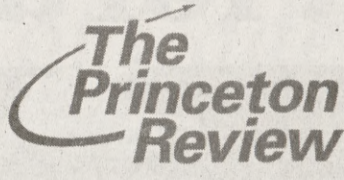


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# NEWS

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THE BATTALION

Friday, May 5, 2000

## Connecticut bishop may succeed Cardinal O'Connor

NEW YORK (AP)—One bishop said the candidate to succeed Cardinal John O'Connor as the man to lead New York's 2.4 million Catholics has already been chosen — but he won't say who it is.

Another experienced observer said whoever would want the nod from among the dozen or so possible candidates "should have his head examined."

"You're in the public limelight all the time," said Thomas Reese, editor of the Jesuit magazine America. "Everyone is always telling you how to do the job. You work grueling hours, sometimes 70 hours a week. There's an incredible number of constituents to please, to say nothing of the media."

O'Connor died Wednesday at 80 of brain cancer after 15 years as cardinal, regarded the nation's most influential Catholic post.

In the arcane process of choosing a successor, the name that has emerged as a likely choice is that of a Connecticut bishop whose flock is less than a sixth of the Catholic population in the New York archdiocese.

Bishop Edward Michael Egan of Bridgeport, Conn., was a church official in New York and spent enough years at the Vatican to be known to Pope John Paul II, who will ultimately choose the successor to O'Connor.

Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark, N.J., — who had been considered a candidate and who just returned from Rome — said the decision on a successor already has been made. He was not naming names — although he said it's not him.

"We know who the final candidate will be. ... We'll all be delighted with the choice," McCarrick said as he arrived in Newark after a three-day Rome visit during which he spoke with the pope.

McCarrick had high praise for the 68-year-old Egan, calling him a strong administrator who had done good things in Bridgeport, where he has been bishop since 1988.

Egan's name has also been mentioned as a likely successor by priests at Masses around the city. Bishop Patrick Ahern told parishioners at St. Thomas Moore Church in Manhattan on Thursday that he was certain Egan would be named to replace O'Connor.

"It's the constant rumor and I have no difficulty in accepting it because it's a very appropriate appointment," said Ahern, a former aide to O'Connor. "He's a strong man, a smart man. He's very able. He's from the Chicago area, so he's already a big-city fellow."

New York Archdiocese spokesman Joe Zwilling refused to comment on suggestions that Egan had already been chosen, as did the spokesman for the Bridgeport diocese.

Egan, who was born in Oak Park, Ill., just outside Chicago, is head of a diocese with 367,000 Roman Catholics in 88 parishes. He is credited with regionalizing the Catholic school system and establishing the diocese's Inner City Foundation.

He served in Rome for 18 years and was an auxiliary bishop in New York, chosen by O'Connor to oversee the archdiocese's education programs.

His name was one of about a dozen candidates mentioned as possible successors. Several have strong New York connections.

Henry Mansell, 62, a bishop in Buffalo since 1995, was born in the Bronx and educated in Catholic schools here. He also was an auxiliary bishop in New York and a former top aide to O'Connor. Mansell, however, told reporters he would like to stay in Buffalo.

Edwin O'Brien, 60, who has been archbishop for the Catholic Archdiocese for the U.S. Military since 1977, was also born in the Bronx.

There is no timetable for the pope to name a successor. Many believe there will be no announcement until after O'Connor's funeral Monday at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The process begins with recommendations in the United States, then goes to a committee in the Vatican, which makes its recommendations. The pope can reject any candidate and call forth another.

Reese, the magazine editor, said he has heard so many names mentioned over the past nine months that he no longer takes any of them seriously.

"All it means is that Bishop Egan has joined the rumor of the week club," he said. "The fact is, this is a highly secretive process and those who know don't talk and those who don't know spread rumors."

**"He's a strong man, a smart man. He's very able. He's from the Chicago area, so he's already a big-city fellow."**

— Bishop Patrick Ahern, former aide to O'Connor

### MEMORIAL

Continued from Page 1

the memorial and sift through the dozens of suggestions we've received," Southerland said. "They're all very interesting and come from the heart, so it'll be a wonderful project."

Along with money for the memorial, the foundation has received funding for scholarships that will be named after the bonfire victims. There are 13 total scholarships, one named for each of the 12 victims and one to honor those who were injured in the collapse. Each is a \$50,000 endowed scholarship, said Durwood Lewis, director of development operations for the Association of Former Students.

"I've been here for 15 years and never seen anything like this," he said.

Richard Biondie, with the Texas A&M Foundation, said 10 of the 13 scholarships are currently funded by individuals. The other three are being funded by the Texas A&M Foundation, but he speculates that eventually all 13 will be individually funded.

The logs that crushed the students are also going to be used as part of the memorial

process.

The logs have been on the bonfire site since their removal from the collapse, and the Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire used some of them as evidence in its investigation.

Charles Sippial, interim vice president of administration, said the plan to remove the logs and use them is still being decided.

Sippial said the current plan is to give the logs to Habitat for Humanity, which will have the logs processed and use them to build 12 houses in memory of each of the victims, but the plan has not been finalized.

"A decision will be made when a decision is made about how long [the logs] can stay," Sippial said. "The commission released the logs [yesterday] and we have to get legal clearance by the state attorney general."

The logs are presently being kept in case a victim's family takes legal action against the University and the logs are needed as evidence in the case.

Sippial said that 50 percent of any funds made from selling the wood left after the houses are constructed by Habitat for Humanity will be given to the Bonfire Memorial Fund.

### VIRUS

Continued from Page 1

messages. It later moved into European parliamentary houses through the high-tech systems of big companies and financial traders.

"I have to tell you that, sadly, this affectionate greeting card virus which has immobilized the House's internal communication system," said Margaret Beckett, leader of Britain's House of Commons. "This means that no member can receive emails from outside. How can we communicate with each other by e-mail?"

In the United States, the "love bug" shut down the Florida Lottery email system, said lottery spokesman Leo DiBenigno. The lottery had problems with its Website, but those were determined to be related to the virus.

In Asia, Dow Jones Newswires and the Asian Wall Street Journal were among the victims. The bug affected only email and did not affect Dow Jones Newswires from distributing financial information to traders. The Asian Wall Street Journal would have no problem relishing, officials there said.

But the email systems went wild.

"It crashed all the computers," said Daphne Ghesquiere, Dow Jones spokeswoman in Hong Kong. "You get the message: 'I LOVE YOU', and I was among the stupid ones to open about five at one time and I was suspicious, but one was from Jones Newswires, so I opened it."

Once the message was opened, Ghesquiere said, it began blocking people's ability to send and receive email.

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## THE BATTALION

Mariyam Mohiuddin  
Editor in Chief

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