

# ***NEW YORK TIMES* CRITIQUES**

## **CARDINAL EGAN**

Unlike the rest of the New York media, which treated Cardinal Edward M. Egan with respect, the *New York Times* took advantage of the late New York Archbishop's passing to write a statement that read more like an editorial than an obituary.

The *Times* wasted no time telling its readers what it thought of the late archbishop. In the first sentence of its 2800-word obituary, it labeled Cardinal Egan a "stern defender of Roman Catholic orthodoxy." Not just an ordinary defender of the Church's teachings, but a "stern" one. Even without the adjective, the phrase makes us wonder whether the *Times* expects any archbishop not to defend the Church's orthodoxy. Don't those who write editorials for the *Times* defend the newspaper's orthodoxy, sternly or otherwise?

The reason the *Times* mentioned Egan's orthodoxy is because it finds many Church teachings disagreeable. Which ones? It said Egan "delivered stentorian lessons from the pulpit on abortion, contraception, homosexuality, priestly celibacy and other matters." With the exception of women priests, there really aren't any "other matters" as the *Times* sees it; that list just about sums up the entire corpus of Church teachings. Similarly, it said Egan "walked the line of church doctrine against winds of change." Meaning he didn't adopt the *Times'* secular values.

Right on course, the obit spoke about "pedophile priests" and clergy "accused of molesting children." In fact, less than 5 percent of the molesters were pedophiles and almost 80 percent of the victims were postpubescent. This was a homosexual scandal—not a pedophile one.

Egan was also accused of "calling the police to oust

protesters from a church.” He sure did: they camped out in the church and refused to leave. Question: Does the *Times* allow squatters to take over its offices?

The obit also noted that “Cardinal Egan distrusted the news media and rarely gave interviews.” Actually, he didn’t distrust all the media, just those outlets that can’t separate their politics from their coverage.