

# IN MEMORIAM

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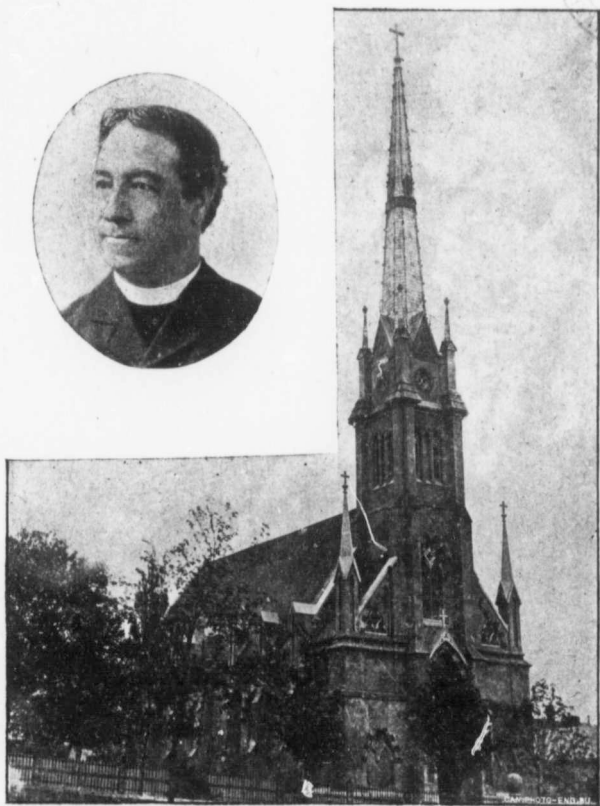
JOHN JOSEPH EGAN

Dean of Barrie

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1847 - 1909

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THE LATE DEAN EGAN  
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BARRIE.



**T**HERE passed to his eternal reward on Sunday morning, August 29th, 1909, full of honors and respected by all classes and creeds, John Joseph Egan, Dean of the archdiocese of Toronto, parish priest of Barrie, Ontario.

**Q** The late Dean had been in poor health for many months. A year ago last March he was relieved of active church duties, but was able to go out and in among his flock. For the past few months he was confined to the Deanery, and at times life was hanging in the balance. Sunday morning the community and his people were shocked to learn that the silent summons had come; dissolution taking place at half-past six o'clock.

**Q** Arrangements for the funeral were completed on Monday. That morning the body was removed to St. Mary's church, where it was viewed during the day by a large number of people. In the evening Vespers were sung. The funeral took place on Tuesday morning, and was probably the most solemn service ever held in Barrie.

Such a gathering of the dignitaries of the Catholic church has not been held in the Toronto diocese since the funeral of Archbishop Walsh. The spacious church was filled with a mourning assemblage. The darkness of death was everywhere manifest within the sacred edifice: streamers of black were draped throughout the nave, while the pulpit and gallery front were hidden behind black broadcloth; and outside, and to the south of the church an open grave was the silent witness to the truth that life is an uncertain span. At the head of the main aisle, just outside the Sanctuary, rested the casket containing the dead Dean. The massive casket was of oak, covered with black broadcloth, draped with chenille fringe and trimmed with silver. The inside of the casket was lined with white satin. The plate bore the inscription:

.....  
VERY REV. J. J. EGAN  
Dean of Barrie  
Died Aug. 29th, 1909  
aged 62 years  
.....

The dead priest was clothed in his Mass vestments.

¶ The funeral service, which was graced by the presence of His Grace, Archbishop McEvey, began at 10:30 a.m., with the Office for the Dead. At eleven o'clock the procession of the clergy was formed in the Deanery and proceeded to the church, where solemn High Mass was sung, with Father Jeffcott, of Adjala, as Celebrant; Father Gearin, Phelpston, Deacon; Father Moyna, Orillia, Sub-deacon; Rev. Dr. Treacy, Dixie, Master of Ceremonies; Father J. Hays, Beaverton, Thurifer; Fathers Grant, Thornhill, and Sweeney, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Acolytes. Within the Sanctuary were His Grace, the Archbishop,

attended by Very Rev. Dean Morris, St. Catharines and Dean Mahoney, Hamilton ; Rt. Rev. J. J. McCann, Vicar General, assisted by Rev. Father Teefy, Toronto.

¶ After Mass, the sermon was delivered by Vicar General McCann, from the text "And we will not have you ignorant brethren concerning them that are asleep, that you may not be sorrowful even as others who have no hope."—I Thes. 4:12. The Rev. Father after expressing sympathy for the great loss which the parish of Barrie and the Archdiocese of Toronto had suffered in the death of Dean Egan, told of the zealous labors of the late Dean in the diocese for many years. Coming to Canada from that Isle of Saints, which has given so many holy priests to America. After completing his studies at St. Michael's College, Toronto, and the Grand Seminary in Montreal, he was ordained for this archdiocese. The life of a priest was always strenuous but in those days it was especially so; long drives over rough roads, and hard work were the portion of every priest in missionary life. These labors required a strong constitution, and Father Egan had the strong constitution. Many a one who started with him and many another who commenced years after fell by the roadside, worn out by the heat and burden of the day. Father Egan, through the blessing of God, continued in the good work till the present day. With his genial character and his earnest faith and love of Mother Church, he labored successfully, and sixteen years ago was promoted to the Deanery of Barrie. You all know his life here, and it is unnecessary for me to point out his good works. He was always a welcome guest wherever he went; his charity towards the poor and his zeal in the work of the ministry have gone before him to plead before that great tribunal of God's judgment. We hope and trust he has received the joyous welcome of

"Well done, good and faithful servant." The long sickness which he bore with great hope and resignation was a preparation for that term upon which all must enter. It is our duty and it ought to be your debt of gratitude to pray for him, because he still speaks to you in the eloquent silence of death, and asks that at least we his friends should remember him at the Throne of God. In union therefore with the Church, we, his brother priests and the illustrious Archbishop of this diocese, and you his parishioners, entreat that he may receive eternal rest and that perpetual light may shine upon him.

¶ After the sermon the Absolution was given by the Archbishop. The clergy slowly marched from the church around to the south-west side of the edifice where the vault had been prepared. The casket was placed in a polished oak case and lowered into the specially built vault; the last rites being performed by the Archbishop. The site of the burial was chosen by the late Dean.

¶ The chief mourners were: Mr. Frank Egan, Toronto, brother; Mrs. McMahon, Brooklyn, N. Y., sister; Miss Loretta Egan, Toronto, niece; Miss Kate Lynch, who nursed her uncle during his illness; Miss Nora Lynch, Toronto, niece; and four nieces who are connected with St. Joseph's Convent, Toronto.

¶ The musical part of the service was under the leadership of Father Trayling, Port Colborne, with Father Rhoadar, Toronto, as organist.

¶ The pall bearers were: Fathers Sullivan, Thorold, Whitney, Newmarket, Gallagher, W. Toronto, Teefey and Hand, Toronto, and O'Leary, Collingwood.

¶ Besides the clergy taking part in the service, the following were present: Rev. Dr. Pisano, of Italy; Fathers

Whelan, rector of St. Michael's Cathedral, W. McCann, Doyle, C.S.S.R.; F. Walsh, C.S.B.; T. Hays, C.S.B.; Player, C.S.B.; McCabe, Rev. Dr. Kidd, J. Walsh, O'Malley, Lamarche, Cantillon, Doglio, McGrand, O'Donnell, Kernahan, L. Minnehan, Morrow, Cruise, all of Toronto; Dollard, Uptergrove; Ryan, Stayner; Wedlock, Schomberg; Finnegan, Dixie; Kelly, Barrie; Clyne, Oshawa; McRae, Brechin; Sheridan, Pickering; Williams, E. Toronto; J. Minehan, Callandan; and McGuire, Downeyville.

Q The Town of Barrie was represented by Reeve Garden and a number of the aldermen. The different religious bodies were also represented.

Q The funeral arrangements were under the control of funeral director Byrne, and included the church draping and vault construction.

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Q Dean Egan was born in County Clare, Ireland, on the 19th of March, 1847. His primary education was received at the Diocesan College at Ennis. In 1869 he came to Canada; entering St. Michael's College he graduated in philosophy. His theological course was taken in the Grand Seminary, Montreal. Ordained to the priesthood, by the late Archbishop Lynch, January 29th, 1873, he became assistant priest at Thorold. His first charge was Caledon, and while there was instrumental in building the Orangeville church. Assistant in St. Paul's church, Toronto, was Father Egan's next charge; then to Thornhill; and in 1893 was appointed Dean of Barrie, in succession to Dean Bergin. Since coming to Barrie the deceased Dean has been closely connected with public affairs: he was for years on the Board of Education as S. S. represent-

ative on the Collegiate section of the Board. For years he was chairman of the Separate School Board. He also was for years a member of the Hospital Board. Shortly after coming to Barrie he organized a branch of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and both in the work of this organization and in many other ways he showed a sympathetic interest in charitable movements, generously assisting in every way. Under his guidance the parish prospered and many improvements were made to the parish property, his chief work being the erection of the fine school building and the addition to the Church. In 1877 he was a member of the Irish-Canadian Pilgrimage to Rome, and with the pilgrims had an audience with the Pope. The steamer in which the pilgrims crossed the ocean had a most stormy passage, and at one time the safety of the vessel was in very great danger. The late Dean was of a genial and affable disposition and was possessed of a ready Irish wit, which made him a welcome guest at many social gatherings. As a citizen he was universally popular with all classes and creeds. Dean Egan was well versed in the theology of his church, and wrote a number of pamphlets of which the chief was "What do the Jesuits teach." He also contributed to the Catholic Review and other papers.

¶ The words of the preacher at the funeral: "He has taken his last farewell to-day, he has often preached to you, to-day in eloquent silence he bids you prepare to follow him" will long be remembered by the congregation of St. Mary's; and the solemn scene outside the church, as under leaden sky, the large assemblage reverently watched the casket, borne by the surpliced clergy, pass to its last resting place, was a fitting close to a long and useful priestly life.



Requiescat in pace

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