

Ex-bishop gets guardian, lawyer

Judge acts in case of ailing Edwin B. Broderick, former leader of diocese

By CAROL DEMARE
Staff writer

ALBANY — An attorney and guardian were appointed Thursday to handle financial and personal matters for a former Albany bishop living in a local nursing home.

Bishop Edwin B. Broderick — who will turn 89 on Monday — led the Roman Catholic Diocese from 1969 to 1977. He was succeeded by Bishop Howard J. Hubbard.

Since leaving Albany, Broderick has lived in Manhattan and was, for a time, executive director of Catholic Relief Services, an international charitable organization. He's returned to the region regularly to

help Hubbard with confirmations. During a visit early last year, Broderick suffered a serious fall, was hospitalized and then moved into the Teresian House, Albany attorney B.J. Costello said.

State Supreme Court Justice Thomas J. Spargo appointed Costello as Broderick's attorney at a hearing Thursday at the nursing home on Washington Avenue Extension.

The Rev. Michael A. Farnano, a former diocesan chancellor who is pastor of St. Pius X parish in Loudonville, was appointed guardian for his friend of 35 years.

The hearing was prompted by a petition to the court by the bishop's nieces and nephews, who want-



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ed a guardian appointed.

Broderick owns an apartment in New York and has other assets which years ago were placed in a foundation set up in the bishop's father's name, said Costello, who is with Hinman, Straub. All of the money goes to charity, he said.

"The New York City apartment is going to be sold and that money is going to go into the foundation," said Costello, answering speculation the church stood to gain from the assets. "So it's not going to Bishop Hubbard or the Catholic Church or the Diocese of Albany."

In a statement issued Thursday, the diocese said it has no involvement in the legal matters brought by Broderick's family.

B.J. Costello said he has never represented the diocese and is not related to attorney Michael Costello, the diocese's long-time attorney. B.J. Costello said he has known

Broderick for many years. Spargo appointed Albany attorney Chad E. Balzer as an "evaluator."

Spargo asked Dr. Robert Broderick, a nephew who is a physician on Long Island, to keep an eye on his uncle's medical condition.

The family members, who live in California and the New York area and were represented by attorneys Louis Pietro and Michael Rhodes-Devey, participated through a conference call.

The hearing was conducted under the provisions of the Mental Hygiene Law, but Broderick's competency was not at issue and he participated in the proceeding, Costello said.

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