

# Prelates protest award to senator

By Tracy Early  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, has protested a University of Notre Dame award to U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y.

Citing the senator's support for abortion rights, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston also has objected to the honor.

Moynihan was chosen to receive the university's Laetare Medal, previously given to such figures as President John F. Kennedy and Catholic Worker leader Dorothy Day, at commencement May 17.

Joseph Zwilling, spokesman for the Archdiocese of New York, confirmed news reports that Cardinal O'Connor protested the award in a letter to Holy Cross Father Edward A. Malloy, Notre Dame president.

But Zwilling said the cardinal was not releasing the text of the letter, or making any public comment about the award. The spokesman said Moynihan recently had breakfast with Cardinal O'Connor at the cardinal's residence,

but offered no report of what they discussed.

Dennis Moore, university press officer, told Catholic News Service May 11 that Father Malloy was not making any comment on the protests.

In a letter answering alumni who wrote Father Malloy objecting to the choice of Moynihan, Holy Cross Father Richard V. Warner, counselor to the president and director of campus ministry, said the selection committee "examines a full range of matters, including positions on abortion and other life-related issues."

The original Notre Dame announcement that Moynihan would receive the medal said, "His passion for scholarship has made him sensible of the realities of state, sensitive to the cry of the poor and commendably supportive of higher education. At Notre Dame, we share that passion, and with this year's Laetare Medal, we celebrate it as well."

Brian Connolly, Moynihan's press secretary, said May 8 that the senator was making no statement about the protest except that he "will be honored to receive the Laetare Medal." He said Moynihan would speak briefly at the

ceremonies, where President Bush was to give the principal address.

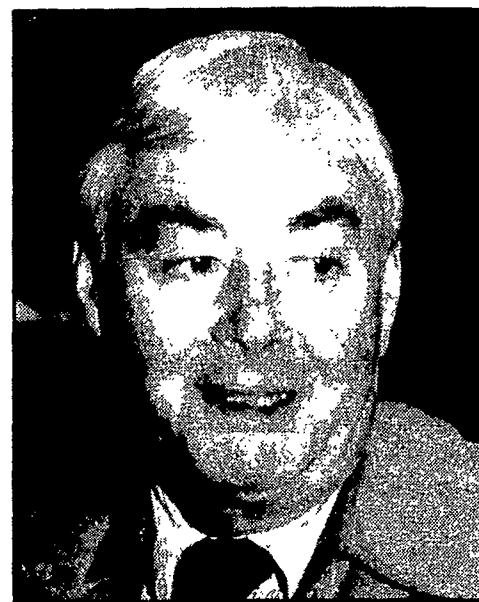
The Laetare Medal is presented annually to Catholics "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

One or more university officials appear to have anonymously leaked news of the cardinals' protests to the press. A May 8 story in *The New York Times* said copies of Cardinal O'Connor's letter had "circulated within the university and in other church offices."

Moynihan's stance on abortion rights was the subject of a critique in a 1987 column Cardinal O'Connor wrote in his archdiocesan newspaper, *Catholic New York*. Not naming Moynihan but providing enough clues to make him easily identifiable, the cardinal charged "my public official friend" with "doubletalk," Orwellian "newspeak" and "a distressing example of politics at its least noble."

Moynihan declined to enter into a public argument, and said merely that the cardinal was taking a position he expected him to take.

*The New York Times* said some facu-



Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan

lity members and university officials at Notre Dame had heard rumors that objections to the Moynihan honor might lead to a boycott of the university by the U.S. bishops, who are scheduled to meet at Notre Dame June 18-21.

But the newspaper said Cardinal O'Connor and other bishops asked about a possible boycott denied having heard about any boycott plan.

Cardinal O'Connor still is scheduled to go to Notre Dame for the meeting, Zwilling said.



AP/Wide World Photos

A Bosnian soldier stands guard May 7 as two of 34 Yugoslav federal army prisoners leave a building in which they were held since their May 3 capture from an army convoy trying to leave Sarajevo. The release was monitored by the European community and the United Nations.

## Bishop calls for 'decisive action' to end destruction

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A bishop from war-ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina gave Pope John Paul II a first-hand report on the fighting in his homeland, five days after the diocesan cathedral, pastoral offices and episcopal residence were bombed.

Bishop Pavao Zanic of Mostar-Duvno met privately with the pope May 11. Afterward, the bishop said the pontiff was "a bit surprised and very, very saddened" to learn of the extent of the destruction in Mostar.

"I've come to Rome to explain this to the pope and to world opinion, Europe should take decisive action to isolate the aggressors," Bishop Zanic said in an interview.

The pope, who has made several appeals for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, promised to do what he could to help stop the fighting, the

bishop said.

Bishop Zanic said Serbian and federal forces shelled church buildings in and around Mostar repeatedly on May 6, seriously damaging or destroying the cathedral, diocesan offices, a church newspaper office, a Caritas center, a Franciscan monastery and an institute for lay formation.

The bishop's residence, a historic building filled with church archives and an extensive library went up in flames, he said. Some church records were rescued, but firemen were unable to save the building.

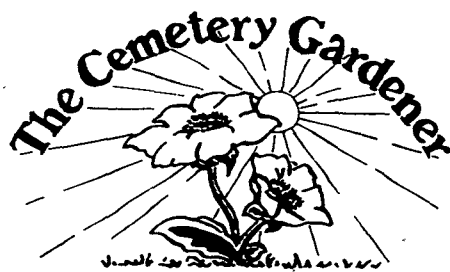
Bishop Zanic said he decided to leave Mostar at the insistence of his priests, and because he realized the Catholic Church was being specifically targeted. At least 10 other church buildings in the diocese had been damaged, he said. About 80 percent of the population had left the city of Mostar, he said.

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