

Bishop admits siring child, misusing funds

GALWAY, Ireland (CNS) — The 65-year-old former bishop of Galway, known internationally as a champion of the poor in the Third World, admitted last week that he is the father of an American teenager.

He also said he secretly used diocesan funds to make a large payment to the mother two years ago.

"I acknowledge that Peter Murphy is my son and that I have grievously wronged Peter and his mother, Annie Murphy," Bishop Eamonn Casey of Galway said in a written statement released May 11 — four days after his resignation.

He said he had used his own money to "make contributions, such as they were, to my son's maintenance and support" since Peter Murphy's birth 17 years ago. But a payment of about \$114,500 to Murphy, 44, of Ridgefield, Conn., came from a diocesan account.

Bishop Casey said he "described the payment as a loan to a third party."

The bishop, whose resignation for

"personal reasons" was announced by the Vatican May 7, said he had "sinned grievously against God, his church, and the clergy and people of the dioceses of Galway and Kerry." Kerry was his previous see.

He said that since his resignation the diocesan funds had been repaid on his behalf — with interest — "by several donors."

Bishop Casey said he would make "final decisions" on how he could help "heal the hurt I have caused, particularly to Annie and Peter." He said he would need "time and space" to find the way to once again serve God "and his people, especially Peter and Annie, in my new situation."

In his resignation statement, Bishop Casey said he intended to "devote the remainder of my active life to work in the missions."

That was prior to his public admission of fatherhood. The latest statement made no mention of the missions.

After stories alleging the bishop was the father of her son, Murphy told Irish radio of the "magical love" she felt for prelate when they met after her "bad divorce." She said the love turned sour when he balked over child-support payments.

She said she met Bishop Casey in Ireland in 1973 when he was head of the Kerry diocese.

"The relationship started three weeks after I got there, and I was like his mistress," she said.

She said the baby was born in Dublin, where she lived after the birth in a home for unwed mothers.

On May 11, Murphy was quoted by the *Irish Times* as saying she had made a secret video last August, recorded by a friend, showing the bishop handing her money at New York's Grand Hyatt Hotel.

The *Irish Times* read the bishop's admission to Peter and quoted him as saying in reaction, "I am very proud. That shows he was willing to admit his

mistakes. I am very happy."

Murphy was also said to be delighted.

The previous week, Peter told the *Irish Independent* newspaper he had known since the age of 9 that the bishop was his father. He said they first met two years ago "for about four minutes."

"He was kind of cold, kind of distant. And he told me he prayed for me twice a day," the teenager said.

Bishop Casey is regarded as a defender of the poor in his country and in the Third World. He once said he believed the United States to be a "major factor" in the oppression of the poor in Central America.

"We're sad" about the resignation, Monsignor James McLoughlin, vicar general of the Galway diocese, told Catholic News Service May 7. "He did tremendous work here in the diocese" and for the poor in Ireland and elsewhere.

Little protest greets Bush, Moynihan at Notre Dame

By Charles Wood
Catholic News Service

NOTRE DAME, Ind. — Although most of the 14,000 people at the University of Notre Dame's May 17 commencement didn't seem to notice, some protests greeted President Bush and a U.S. senator who supports abortion rights.

One member of the graduating class of 2,300 stood up and turned his back to the president during the commencement address. The young man then sat down when everyone else gave Bush a standing ovation at the speech's conclusion.

In addition, a small number of students and faculty wore white arm bands or white ribbons as a sign of protest to the president's appearance in a year when he is running for reelection.

In an apparent allusion to that criticism, Bush told the crowd that he was "not here in the mode of politics."

Politics — and its relationship to Catholic teaching — also played a part in the controversy over Notre Dame's presentation of its Laetare Medal to U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., whose votes in the Senate consistently have favored abortion rights.

The Laetare Medal is presented annually to a Catholic "whose genius has ... illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

Cardinals John J. O'Connor of New York and Bernard F. Law of Boston both had urged that Moynihan not be given the award, and Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., the diocese in which Notre Dame is located, boycotted the commencement because of the Moynihan honor.

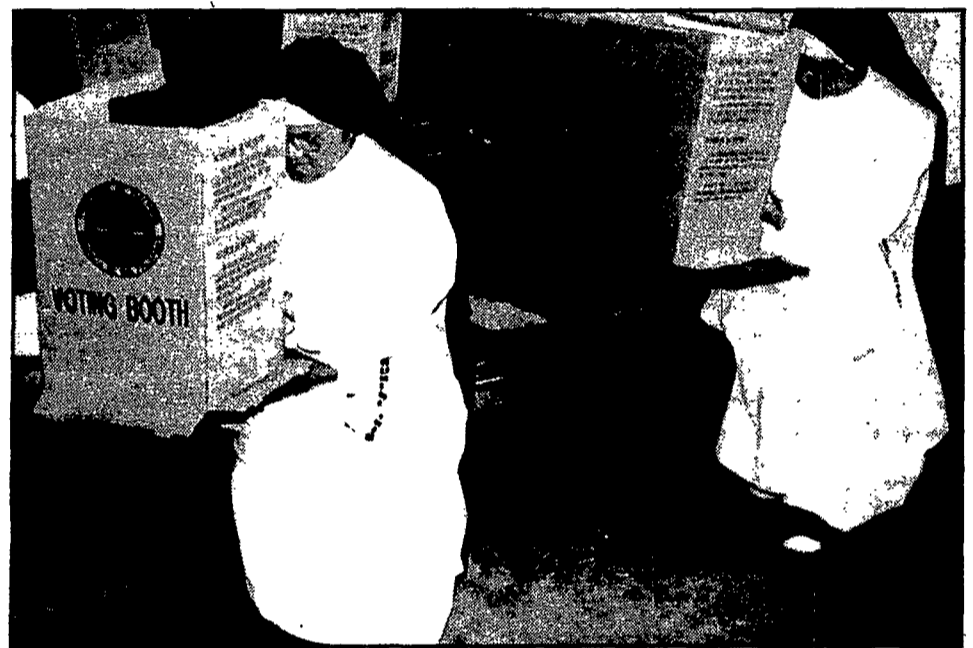
Written protests also came from Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cin-

cinnati, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and from the Catholic bishops of Pennsylvania.

No protests against Moynihan occurred in the arena where graduation took place, except for barely discernible booing in the midst of a nearly unanimous standing ovation when he received the award.

Outside the arena, however, small groups of protesters against Moynihan and against Bush carried signs, handed out pamphlets and spoke to people as they lined up to go through Secret Service security checkpoints.

Both groups — numbering about three dozen each — were quiet and peaceful. They did not confront one another until a camera crew from a local television station arrived, sparking a shouting match and some face-to-face debating.





MOMENT OF TRUTH — Roman Catholic nuns join millions of Filipinos voting at a Manila polling precinct in the nation's May 11 national elections. Some 17,000 public offices were to be decided in the largest election in the history of the Philippines. More than 160,000 soldiers and police were on alert due to fear that violence would erupt during the balloting.

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