



**WOMEN'S PROTEST** — A group of Palestinian women protests at the entrance of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City Oct. 2. About 300 relatives of Palestinian prisoners being held in Israeli jails marched in support of an inmate hunger strike, which began on Sept. 28.

AP/Wide World Photos

## Panel: Perot candidacy won't have any impact

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Panelists at a national teleconference on the influence of the Catholic vote greeted the newly reannounced presidential candidacy of Ross Perot with little excitement Oct. 1.

"My first reaction is that there are now three guys I'm not enthusiastic about," said John L. Carr, U.S. Catholic Conference secretary for social development and world peace.

The Texas businessman's announcement that he would rejoin the presidential race against Republican President George Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton came Oct. 1 in Dallas, while the teleconference on "Does the Catholic Vote Count?" was taking place in Washington.

"I think it will hurt Clinton more than Bush, but it will not affect the outcome of the election," said sociologist and author Father Andrew M. Greeley of Chicago, another panelist.

Father J. Bryan Hehir, USCC counselor for social policy, pastor of St. Paul's Parish in Cambridge, Mass., and Catholic chaplain at Harvard University, said Perot's proposed 50-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax increase and other tough economic measures raise "one of the

most difficult issues of the campaign — taxes."

In the Catholic context, taxes are "part of distributive justice" and "one of the ways you get to heaven," he said. Taxation is "a systematic way to fulfill our obligations to one another, and I think the church ought to address this," Father Hehir added.

Father Philip J. Murnion, director of the National Pastoral Life Center in New York and moderator of the panel, asked whether the panelists thought Perot would appeal to the Catholic "Reagan Democrats" who are expected to play a big role in the 1992 elections.

"I don't think he'll have much Catholic appeal at all," said Father Greeley, who described himself as "pro-Clinton." The other panelists expressed no preference for any candidate.

Criticizing what he called Perot's "strongly fascist tendencies" and for presenting himself as "a charismatic leader who's going to solve all of our problems," Father Greeley said, "We have enough of that in the church, we don't need it in society too."

Much of the discussion during the teleconference centered on how the Republican and Democratic platform positions agreed or differed with Catholic stands on various issues.

## Pop singer rips up picture of pope on late-night show

NEW YORK (CNS) — Irish pop singer Sinead O'Connor left a TV studio audience stunned and sparked a flood of phone calls after she ripped up a picture of Pope John Paul II on a national TV show as she said, "Fight the real enemy."

The incident late into the Oct. 3 broadcast of "Saturday Night Live" left the audience in silence and NBC's switchboard jammed with nearly 500 calls of protest.

NBC spokesman Curt Block said Oct. 4 of O'Connor, "I think there will be discussions in the office about her future with the show. She certainly won't be back anytime soon." She had appeared twice previously on "Saturday Night Live" without incident.

The gesture sparked one of the largest reactions in the show's 17-year history. Block said 98 percent of the callers disapproved of O'Connor's action. Since the incident, hundreds of other protests have been received.

"It is a pity she embarrassed herself that way," said Frank DeRosa, a spokesman for Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The gesture came at the end of O'Connor's a cappella performance of the Bob Marley reggae song "War."

A chantlike protest of racism and other forms of injustice, it says in part: "Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, everywhere is war ... Until the color of a man's skin is of no more significance than the color of his eyes, I've got to say war!"

After O'Connor sang the concluding lyrics, "We have confidence in the victory of good over evil," she raised a picture of the pope and tore it in two while turning to the TV camera and saying, "Fight the real enemy."

She left the stage, and the audience applauded upon her return.

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