

WORLD & NATION

Car bombing claims life of Irish Catholic lawyer

By Cian Molloy
Catholic News Service

DUBLIN, Ireland — A prominent Catholic lawyer was killed in a car bombing in Northern Ireland, leading some Catholics to fear an upsurge in violence by loyalist terrorists.

"That is what we are afraid of," said Bishop Francis Gerard Brooks of Drogheda, Northern Ireland. "We hope and pray that this is not the case."

Rosemary Nelson died from her injuries March 15 after a bomb placed under her car exploded in Lurgan, Northern Ireland. No warning was given, and no group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Nelson is believed to have been targeted by loyalist terrorists because of her work representing nationalist clients. Recently, her clients included the Catholic residents of Garvaghy Road in their efforts to prevent the Orange Order, a Protestant fraternity, from holding a sectarian parade through their area.

Nationalists are mainly Catholic and seek a united Ireland, while loyalists are predominantly Protestant and seek con-

tinued British rule in Northern Ireland.

Bishop Brooks called Nelson's murder "an awful crime. I personally know her husband Paul, whom I taught at ... St. Colman's. Two of her sons are students there now. It's a terrible tragedy for a young family to be left without a mother."

"This bombing is obviously the work of some loyalist group. It's no excuse, but she was probably targeted because of her work for the Garvaghy residents," he said.

Nelson is survived by her husband and three children, ages 13, 11 and 8.

The Committee for the Administration of Justice, a lawyers' human rights group, demanded that any investigation into Nelson's murder be carried out by a British police force other than the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which is more than 90 percent Protestant.

Committee spokesman Brian McGeehan said police officers from England were already investigating Nelson's allegations that she had received death threats from RUC officers.

"It is difficult for people in the nationalist community to have faith in an RUC investigation into the murder of a solicitor (lawyer) when so many solicitors who have



Reuters/CNS

Rosemary Nelson, a prominent Catholic lawyer in Northern Ireland, was killed when a bomb blew up her car in Lurgan March 15. A dissident loyalist group claimed responsibility for the attack.

represented nationalists have been subjected to death threats by RUC officers," he added.

In a statement, RUC Detective Superintendent Sam Kincaid denounced Nelson's murder as "cold-blooded and brutal."

Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs David

Andrews said Nelson's murder was "a very deliberate attempt to intimidate those whose task it is to provide legal representation to those who need it" and said that the murder was "very clearly designed to sabotage the peace process at this very critical time."

Msgr. Nelson, Baker's body moved

By Nancy Hartnagel
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — When the body of sainthood candidate Msgr. Nelson H. Baker recently was moved to his longtime parish in Lackawanna, N.Y., several hundred people spontaneously turned up to pray.

Msgr. Walter O. Kern, who prepared the diocesan documentation for Msgr. Baker's cause, said the exhumation and move to the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory was requested by the Vatican's Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

"When the possible saint is put in a

church, then people begin to pray more because he's right there," Msgr. Kern explained.

Msgr. Baker, a Civil War-era soldier and grain dealer who became a Buffalo diocesan priest in 1876, died in 1936 at the age of 94. He had been pastor of Our Lady of Victory for more than 50 years. He also briefly served in Corning, then a part of the Buffalo Diocese.

At Our Lady of Victory, Msgr. Baker operated soup kitchens and a hospital, as well as homes for unwed mothers, homeless and troubled boys and abandoned infants. On the prayer card for his cause, he is called "Apostle of Charity."

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