

# NY cardinal hospitalized for tests

By Tracy Early  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York remained hospitalized at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan Aug. 30.

Joseph Zwilling, communications officer for the Archdiocese of New York, told Catholic News Service that the cardinal was expected to remain a while longer at Sloan-Kettering, where he had been undergoing tests since his Aug. 25 admission.

No information has been released about the results of the tests.

Zwilling said in a telephone interview Aug. 27 that the cardinal went to Sloan-Kettering on the recommendation of his physician, Kevin M. Cahill.

The choice of Sloan-Kettering did not necessarily mean that cancer was suspected, Zwilling said.

By coincidence, Cardinal O'Connor went to Sloan-Kettering the day after Coadjutor Bishop James T. McHugh of Rockville Centre, N.Y., was released following surgery for cancer.

Zwilling said Cahill recommended tests after Cardinal O'Connor reported feelings of nausea and weakness while working at his residence the previous two days.

The cardinal had no other symptoms such as fainting or bleeding, and was strong enough to walk into the hospital, the spokesman said.

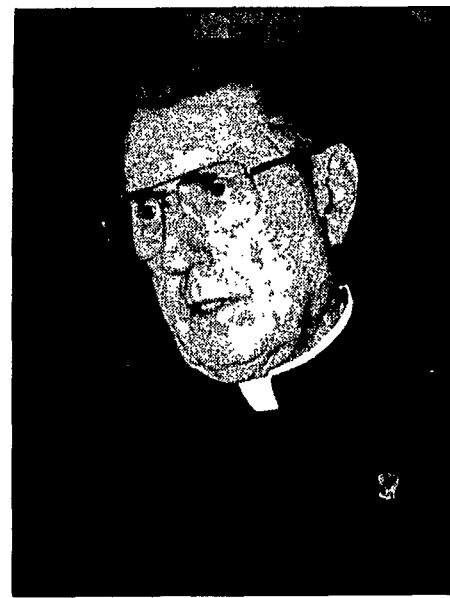
In 1992, Cardinal O'Connor fainted at the reception preceding the annual Al Smith dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Ho-

tel, and was hospitalized briefly. In 1993, he had surgery for an enlarged prostate.

He has also been hospitalized on other occasions, and has often suffered from flu and other respiratory troubles. A flu attack in Mexico City kept him from accompanying Pope John Paul II to St. Louis. Last year, he had a growth removed from his nose, but Zwilling said it was not cancerous.

Cardinal O'Connor submitted his resignation at age 75, but was told to continue in office. He turned 79 this past Jan. 15, and has continued to maintain a full schedule with apparent stamina and vigor.

However, Zwilling said he had been keeping a light schedule in August, and his hospitalization was not causing him to miss any scheduled appearances.



Cardinal John O'Connor

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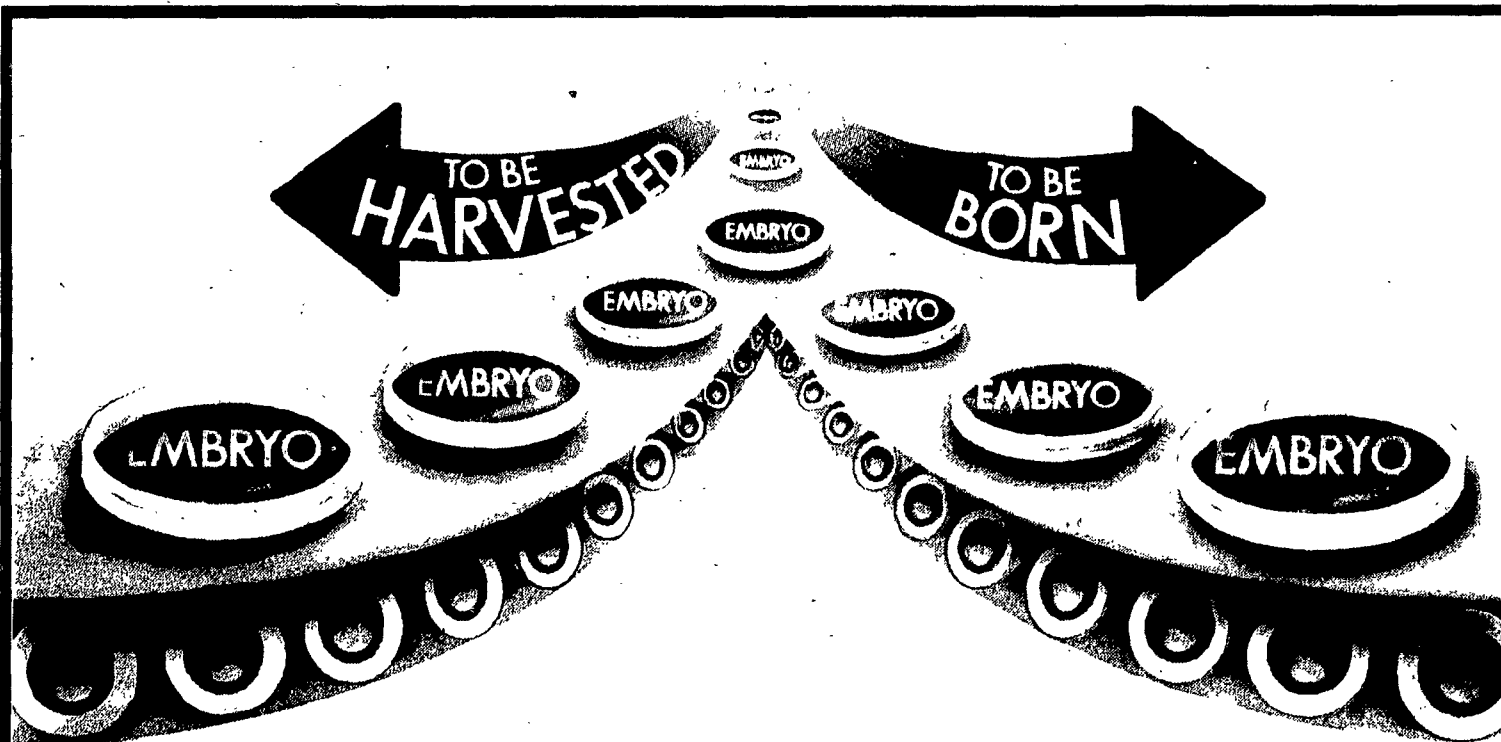


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## Research poses threat to lives

Should an innocent human life be ended so that another person's health might be improved? Most civilized people would resoundingly answer, "No!"

**B**ut society may soon answer, "Yes," according to Catholic moral and scientific leaders who fear the consequences of embryonic stem cell research.

Such research is designed to test how certain cells called pluripotent stem cells — which are taken from human embryos — can be used to benefit people with certain diseases. The embryonic cells can correct cellular damage caused by Parkinson's and other diseases, for example, and replace failed insulin-producing cells in people with diabetes.

Embryonic stem cells could also be used to test drugs and medications, and could be studied to determine how genes work, according to reports.

Using stem cells from aborted embryos and from live embryos — who die in the process — has

received significant support from several quarters. The national Catholic newspaper *Our Sunday Visitor* recently reported that a coalition of patient advocate groups called "Patients' Cure" supports such research. The coalition includes the American Parkinson Disease Association, the National Health Council and the Spina Bifida Association of America Foundation.

Meanwhile, a group of prominent scientists, including 67 Nobel Prize winners, were among the signatories of a letter stating their support for embryonic stem cell research. The letter was published in the March *Science* journal. If the U.S. Congress blocks the research, "these tremendous scientific and medical benefits may never become available to the patients who so desperately

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