The priest who became the face of Bloody Sunday

Edward Daly
1933-2016
On Jan. 30, 1972, Father Edward Daly was on a civil rights march in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, when British soldiers opened fire on the protesters. Jackie Dudley, a 17-year-old standing near the Catholic priest, was shot in the back. As gunfire continued to ring out, two men picked up the youth and Daly led them to safety, waving a bloodstained white handkerchief in front of him. Dudley died that day, along with 12 other unarmed civilians, and photographs of his attempted rescue became the iconic images of the Bloody Sunday massacre. Yet Daly, who later became a powerful voice for peace as bishop of Londonderry, lamented his newfound fame. “It changed my life completely,” he said. “All the other things I did were forgotten. I was the priest with the handkerchief and that was it.”

Daly was born “in the village of Belleek, County Fermanagh, near the border with Ireland,” said The New York Times. After studying at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome, he was ordained as a priest in 1957, and made a curate at the Roman Catholic cathedral in Londonderry five years later. He soon gained firsthand experience of the Troubles, the sectarian conflict between Northern Irish Protestants loyal to Britain and Catholics who wanted a reunited Ireland.

In 1971, he administered the last rites to a 14-year-old girl fatally shot in crossfire between the IRA and the British army. Bloody Sunday convinced Daly “that violence in pursuit of political goals could never be justified,” said The Daily Telegraph (U.K.).

Appointed bishop of Londonderry in 1974, he “used the weight of his office to condemn terrorism and to urge the authorities to abandon counterproductive security policies.” Daly described IRA gunmen as “followers of the gospel of Satan,” and declared that Catholics who supported the militants’ campaign of bombings and shootings “had effectively excommunicated themselves.”

Bishop Daly worked “tirelessly to promote peace” until a stroke forced his retirement in 1993, said BBC.com. The Good Friday Agreement largely brought an end to the Troubles five years later, and in 2010, the British government belatedly accepted responsibility and apologized for Bloody Sunday. “I felt a sense of uncommon relief that this burden has been lifted off my shoulders, and the shoulders of the people in this city,” said Daly afterward. “It was good to have lived to witness this unforgettable day.”

The eccentric prosecutor who took on the mob

David Margolis
1939-2016
David Margolis was a rumpled and irreverent presence in buttoned-down Washington, D.C. During his 14 years as head of the Justice Department’s Organized Crime and Racketeering Section, the prosecutor sent dozens of mafiosi to prison, including John “Teflon Don” Gotti and Carmine “The Snake” Persico. Among other high-profile assignments, he investigated the 1993 suicide of Bill Clinton aide Vince Foster and the outing of covert CIA officer Valerie Plame. In all, Margolis worked 51 years at Justice, through eight presidential administrations. Asked in 2011 how he’d survived so long, he said: “I rely on guile, bluff, balls, and the good work of my colleagues, not to mention some luck.”

Growing up in Hartford, Conn., Margolis “wanted to be a disc jockey,” said The Times (U.K.). But his interest in politics and law was cemented at Brown University, where he led the picketing of local chain stores that had operations in the segregated South. After graduating from Harvard Law School, Margolis joined the Justice Department in 1965. With his cowboy boots, pink leisure suits, and shoulder-length hair, he “cut an eccentric figure,” said The Washington Post. He made his name early in his career when—dressed in a blue Edwardian suit—he “single-handedly coaxed an armed robber into surrendering.” After he took over the department’s organized crime team in 1979, prosecutors and agents used wiretaps, sting, and the RICO anti-racketeering statute to, as Margolis put it, bring “the mob to its knees all over the country.”

Margolis “went on to become the most senior career lawyer at the Justice Department,” said NPR.org. In the case Margolis said he “agonized over the most,” he decided against punishing government lawyers John Yoo and Jay Bybee, who approved waterboarding and other brutal interrogation techniques during the George W. Bush years.” He took the ensuing firestorm of criticism with the same calm and good humor he showed in 1995 while testifying before the Senate committee on Foster’s suicide. Aware that Margolis had recently suffered a heart attack and undergone quadruple bypass surgery, the committee’s Democratic counsel asked, “Are you comfortable?” “No,” Margolis quipped. “But I make a living.”

The Brazilian surgeon who nipped and tucked the rich and famous

Ivo Pitanguy
1926-2016
Known as the “Michelangelo of the scalpel” and the “Botticelli of the breast,” Ivo Pitanguy was arguably the world’s most famous cosmetic surgeon. Though he never revealed the names of his many famous patients—“I’m a doctor, I have to be discreet,” he said—he was believed to have sculpted and tightened the faces and bodies of Sophia Loren, Jackie Onassis, and Frank Sinatra. Yet Pitanguy never felt the need to go under the knife himself. “The most important thing is to have a good ego,” he said. “Then you don’t need an operation.”

The son of a surgeon, Pitanguy was born in Brazil’s mountainous Belo Horizonte region, said The Times (U.K.). “He fainted the first time he saw an operation, but at 16, when his father was killed, he lied about his age to enter medical school.” After a residency in Rio de Janeiro, he studied at hospitals in the U.S., France, and Britain. On his return to Rio, he set up a plastic surgery department at a public hospital, and in 1981 treated dozens of children who were badly burned and disfigured after a fire tore through a circus tent.

The event “projected him into the national spotlight,” said The Guardian (U.K.). Two years later, Pitanguy launched his private clinic, where he developed techniques that have become standards in plastic surgery, including the Brazilian butt lift and tummy tucks with scars low enough to hide under a bikini bottom. Believing that everyone has a “right to beauty,” he ran a weekly clinic for the poor, treating burn victims, children with cleft palates, and people with deformities free of charge. Plastic surgeons should consider themselves “artists of the living form,” he said in 2014. “[W]e bring] serenity to those who suffer by being betrayed by nature.”