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The University of Dayton

News Release

NATIONAL CATHOLIC JOURNALIST
TO RECEIVE UD'S KANE AWARD

DAYTON, Ohio, June 7, 1989--When Dale Francis was a daily columnist for the "Dayton Herald" in the 1930s, he occasionally came to the University of Dayton campus for stories. One day he accompanied a friend to the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus, the first time he ever entered a Catholic church. It proved to be the first step toward his conversion to Catholicism in 1945. It is fitting that, more than four decades later, Francis will return to UD to accept an award for his service to the church in communications.

Francis, now a national Catholic columnist and a resident of Huntington, Ind., has been chosen to receive UD's third annual Daniel J. Kane Religious Communications Award. Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president of UD, will make the presentation at an award dinner on Thursday, June 22 at UD.

"As we reviewed the nominations, it was very obvious to the committee that Mr. Francis brought a great diversity of experience to ministry with the church in communications over the years," said Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, director of UD's Center for Religious Telecommunications. "He is a dedicated and committed lay person whose work has spanned the secular and religious press. We wish to celebrate and recognize his accomplishments."

In addition to receiving a three-dimensional original wall sculpture, Francis will be honored by a donation in his name to a scholarship fund for students participating in the Pastoral Communications Institute at UD.

A syndicated columnist in the Catholic press for more than 30 years, Francis was director of publications at the University of Notre Dame and - more -
founder of the University of Notre Dame Press. He developed the plan for a National Catholic Information Department and Diocesan Communications Center in 1948, and served as director of the Bureau of Information in Washington, D.C. from 1953 to 1956.

Francis began as a reporter in 1933, and worked for both the "Dayton Journal" and the "Dayton Herald" in the 1930s and 40s. He currently writes weekly columns for two daily newspapers and a syndicated column for 14 diocesan publications. He has written for more than 25 magazines and has had three books published. He is the administrator for the "Our Sunday Visitor" Institute Advisory Council.

The award is named for Daniel J. Kane, former communications director of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the first recipient in 1986. It honors persons who have made significant contributions to religious communications in the United States.

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