

Japanese Catholics Made Homeless By Severe Floods

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

Tokyo—Hundreds of Catholics were rendered homeless and extensive damage caused to church properties when flood waters, fed by seven days of torrential rains, swept over Japan's southern island of Kyushu. Reports continuing to reach Fukuoka, the island's largest city, placed the number of dead, injured or missing at over 2,000 and homes damaged or destroyed at 350,000.

It was announced that Bishop Dominic Fukuoka of Fukuoka, whose diocese was almost completely inundated, had formed a relief committee to assist victims of the floods, tentatively estimated at 700,000. American Army personnel were already working heroically to alleviate the distress, and 5,000 one-pound bags of flour and sugar had been distributed to the needy from U. S. Army supplies.

Meanwhile, a cabled message of sympathy and a donation to

age flooded to the second floor. Kurume, in the southern part of the Fukuoka Prefecture, suffered a similar fate when 80 per cent of the Catholic homes were flooded and 20 per cent totally destroyed. In Kokura, the church was flooded almost to the ceiling.

No damage was reported in Fukuoka city, where Bishop Fukuoka resides, and there was no news of any loss of life among missionaries in the flooded areas. However, word was still being awaited from flooded areas, notably Juamoto, in which the Columban Fathers, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, the Sisters of the Infant Jesus of Chauvillat, and the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres are working.

A priest and a group of catechumens were reported to have had a miraculous escape at Mofji City during the height of the floods.

DESPITE THE incessant rain, Father Emile Margot, of the Paris Foreign Mission Society, had his usual attendance of 100 Catholics and 25 catechumens at the 9 o'clock Sunday Mass. When the Mass was over, the catechumens adjourned as usual to the rectory for a catechism class. However, with the rain getting worse, and as the church and rectory stood at the base of a hill known for its landslides, it was decided to return to the church to offer prayers for Divine protection.

The place where the priest and the catechumens chose to pray the Rosary was the church porch, which forms the base of a concrete tower, the strongest part of the structure. Some ten minutes later, the mountain side slipped, wiping away the body of the church and hundreds of dwellings. When the road subsided, the church tower was found to be the only building left standing.

IN EMANERA, the largest parish in the island, the church and school were destroyed, and the church and school

POPE RECEIVES PRINCE



Pope Pius XII is shown with Crown Prince Akhito of Japan after receiving him in his private library in the Vatican's Clementine Hall. During the audience, the Pontiff presented Prince Akhito with the gold medal of his Pontificate and in turn received two large silver vases decorated with the imperial arms of Japan. The Pope expressed to the Prince his good wishes for Emperor Hirohito, the rest of the Imperial family and the entire Japanese people. (RNS Photo.)

Church Urged To Alter Tactics In India

New Delhi, India—Well-grounded workers' movements are the only solution to the appalling poverty of the Indian workers.

Many interested in halting communism in India are preaching only a sterile anti-communism, without the problems on which communism thrives. The Church should change her entire missionary concept of In-

Jesuit School Opens Industrial Institute

Calcutta, India—(NC)—St. Xavier's University here has opened an Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations. The Institute, with the motto "Knowledge for Action," will train labor leaders with a view to obtaining better conditions for workers and greater efficiency in their work. There are no tuition fees. Classes take place in the evening since they are primarily intended for working people. Lectures are held three times a week and the full course leading to a diploma lasts two years.

dia to come to grips with the real problems of the people.

These are the chief observations contained in a report by Msgr. Joseph Cardijn, founder and chief general of the Young Christian Workers, and forwarded to the Catholic authorities in India.

AS AN "efficacious and beneficent solution" to the problem of working class poverty, Msgr. Cardijn pleaded for "authentic workers' unions"—unions "capable of studying workers' problems, of enlightening and inspiring their brethren and of enlivening the working class movement."

He criticized the domination of workers' syndicates in India by politicians and intellectuals. What the labor movement in India lacks most, the 70-year-old internationally known priest declared, is workers' unions which are "capable, just, disinterested, totally dedicated to the interests of the workers with due regard to the common good of the nation."

Pope Skullcaps Survive Crash

See Paulo, Brazil—(NC)—Virtually everything was left charred—including the bodies of 18 passengers and seven crew members—when a London-Buenos Aires airliner crashed and burned here. But in the wreckage were two items unscathed; two zucchetto (skullcaps) worn by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, which the Holy Father had apparently given someone as a souvenir of an audience. With the skullcaps were found two documents, stating in Italian: "The white skullcap, accompanying this note, was used by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, happily reigning."

Church Still Gains As Reds In Poland Step Up Persecution

Munich, Germany—(NC)—During the past 12 months, the tempo of anti-religious persecution has been stepped up considerably in Communist Poland. But the more the Reds have tightened the screws on the Catholic Church, the more has her influence and prestige grown.

Shadows of martyrdom may be looming over the faithful of this great Catholic land, but there is every sign that they are prepared to stand staunchly by the Church in whatever crisis may develop.

This expectation is strengthened by stories told by those who have managed to escape from the slavic state who witness modern Poland has been converted. In the eyes of these escapees, the Number 1 symbol of Polish Catholic steadfastness and courage is His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński, the comparatively youthful Primate, who so far has been able to keep the Church from a head-on clash with the Warsaw regime.

THE ATTACHMENT of the people to their Primate is truly impressive. An expert on the Communist mentality, he is well aware of the defenselessness and isolation of Poland's Catholics. He has been careful to avoid giving the government an excuse for depriving the Church of her remaining few liberties. Nevertheless he has warned: "So far the Polish people have paid for their fidelity to the Vatican with tears. But a moment may come when they will have to pay for it with their blood."

If and when the time of bloodshed comes, Cardinal Wyszyński will be ready himself to follow in the footsteps of two other Iron Curtain Cardinals, Cardinals Mindszenty and Stepien. Already seven Polish Bishops have been "deposed," and a thousand priests jailed or executed. However, the longer the seemingly inevitable is postponed, the better. The interval will serve to prepare the Polish Catholics for the catacombs and to unite them still more closely with their Bishops.

There is no doubt that the Bishops' example and leadership have helped to create among the people not only a resistance to

every form of Red persuasion, but to link them in a spiritual oneness with them. While the Communists wield weapons of fear and terror, the Church wages another kind of offensive—an offensive of spiritual penetration and influence to hold back and eventually defeat the enemies of God and religion.

Federal Agency Grants Loans To Universities

Washington—(NC)—Loans totaling \$6,013,000 for construction of dormitories at five Catholic universities are among a number just approved by the U.S. Housing and Home Finance Agency.

GEORGETOWN University here was given a loan of \$1,188,000 to be used with \$162,000 of its own funds for a dormitory to house 294 women students, primarily student nurses, and 13 faculty members.

Loyola University, Chicago, was granted a loan of \$1,200,000 to be used with \$24,000 of its own funds to build its first dormitory, to house 139 men.

St. Bonaventura University, St. Bonaventura, N. Y., was granted a \$1,725,000 loan to construct a dormitory to house 500 men. The University of Detroit was granted a \$900,000 loan to be used with \$131,772 of its own funds to build a dormitory for 316 men students.

DUQUESNE University, Pittsburgh, Pa., was granted a \$1,000,000 loan to be used with \$200,000 of its own funds for a dormitory for 233 women students.

Pope Sends Donation To Jap Flood Victims

Tokyo—(NC)—His Holiness Pope Pius XII has sent \$5,000 for the relief of victims of the floods which caused much loss of life and widespread havoc in Japan's southern island of Kyushu.

It was disclosed meanwhile that the National Catholic Charities group in Tokyo had called all its available cash to the relief committee set up by Bishop Dominic Fukuoka of Fukuoka to assist flood sufferers, including those who were victims of the floods.

The committee was reported organizing collections of parcels of food, clothing and medicines for distribution to the flood-hit areas.

ward relief of the flood sufferers was received at the Papal Internunciature in Tokyo from His Eminence Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, and member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Sydney. The donation was the first big offering for the victims to be received from abroad.

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New-Type Auto Club Helps Handicapped Get To Mass

Silver Spring, Md.—(NC)—A student for the priesthood at the House of Studies of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity here has come up with the idea of a nation-wide automobile club to assist the aged, crippled and other handicapped to get to church.

Brother Colman Nolan, M.S.S.T., who hails from Brooklyn, N.Y., even has a name for the organization—the St. Christopher Automobile Club.

He discussed the idea with Father Gilbert Hay, M.S.S.T., mission procurator, and it was decided to put it into action.

There would be no dues or meetings of club members—just a voluntary effort on the part of automobile owners to drive aged, crippled and other neighbors who otherwise would be unable to attend, to Mass and other church services.

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