

# Typhoon Howls As Nuns Pray

Hong Kong — (NC) — Four nuns who were trapped in their Quonset-hut convent by the swirling snake-infested floodwaters of typhoon Wanda said after they were rescued: "We thought we would die, so we offered our lives for the Church and our poor ones in China."

The typhoon smashed and twisted through this British colony at 160 miles an hour Saturday, Sept. 1. Seaside villages across the harbor from Hong Kong island itself were ravaged by a 10-foot tidal wave. Fifty-nine deaths were reported initially, and estimates of the dead ranged to well over 100. An estimated 41,000 persons were left homeless. Property damage was perhaps \$20 million.

THE FOUR nuns who nearly drowned are Chinese members of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows, whose motherhouse is in Beaverton, Ore. The typhoon buckled and ripped their Quonset hut and the flood waters poured in.

The waters rose to within armslength of the overhead crossbeams where the Sisters perched. They had climbed first to the hut-convent. He took the on chairs, and then on tables as the waters kept rising. Then the superior, and Sisters Mary they thrust their coiffed heads through the paper-thin ceiling. Mary Stephen — to the Mary-nailed to the crossbeams, and knoll Sisters' convent in nearby tore openings to hoist them-Kowloon.

They selves up under the rounded roof.

One beam started to break as one Sister was pulling herself up, but she was yanked to safety.

As the waters swirled closer and closer, the Sisters recited the Rosary, litanies and acts of contrition louder and louder in order to hear themselves above the crescendo of the voice of the typhoon.

While they were on the beams, two men were able to swim in through a window. "Have you come to rescue us?" they called. "No — to save ourselves," was the reply. The men too perched on beams.

Two hours later the floodwaters had receded somewhat, and Father Seraphim Priestly, O.F.M., missionary of the Franciscans' Holy Name province (New York) who is superior of the Franciscan house in Hong Kong, was able to make his way to the convent.



## Benefit For Notre Dame Sisters

ROCHESTER CHAPTER of the Notre Dame Guild will hold a dessert card party Oct. 15 at 8 p.m. at Holy Family Parish. From left are, seated, Mrs. Warren LaVigne, chairman; Mrs. Angelo Iati, publicity; and standing, Mrs. John McFarlane, donations; Mrs. Clarence Kehoe, refreshments; and Mrs. Charles Burke, donations.

## Bible Study Intensified

Shawnee, Okla. — (RNS) — from ten states attended the The revival of Catholic interest week-long institute, operated in the Bible is due partly to under the direction of the Bene- the attacks of rationalists upon dicines at the Abbey. Father, the divine authorship of the Joseph DeVaul, S.J., professor of Sacred Scripture at a noted Bible scholar at the first St. Gregory's Theology Institute.

Father Barnabas Ahern, C.P., professor of Sacred Scripture at the Passionist Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said attack on the Bible has caused Catholic scholars to intensify their study of what God truly intended to reveal through the Scriptures. He and other faculty members of the Theology Institute said that this closer look was good for the Church.

MORE THAN 120 priests to their parishioners.

Father Barnabas and the others added that a fuller knowledge of the Scriptures will result in a new depth and a new foundation for the liturgical revival now taking place.

In addition, they said, better Bible understanding will improve instruction classes and the lay apostolate movements.

Father Barnabas discussed new insights into the Gospels which have resulted from recent Biblical research. According to the Passionist priest, the Bible study is helping the reader of the Bible in several ways:

"It helps to show the Sacraments as continuing the salvation deeds of Almighty God which were begun in the history of His chosen people.

"It helps to demonstrate the action of the Holy Spirit in the whole life of the community.

"It helps the average person to see moral duties and obligations as a living response to God, who is acting in his life.

"It helps people to appreciate God's full glory and that this glory comes through each individual's activity in the Mystical Body."

## More Liturgy Gains Forecast

Seattle — (RNS) — Expectation of greater accomplishments in the Roman Catholic liturgical movement was voiced at the 23rd annual North American Liturgical Week on the World's Fair grounds here.

The Rev. Gerald Ellard, professor of liturgical theology at St. Louis University's School of Divinity, declared: "It is comforting that our unfinished work in the liturgy is set down as part of our Christian hope for tomorrow."

"Most of these things are still in process of introduction, or assimilation, with no time as yet for psychological growth, he said.

"Hence, we confidently expect to witness further and much greater accomplishments in that liturgical movement which was called by the late Pope Pius XII, 'God's providential-disposition for the present time'."

Sponsored by the National Catholic Liturgical Conference, the Week was attended by some 5,000 priests, religious and laymen from all over the country and Canada. In addition, a number of Protestant and Jewish clergymen from the Seattle area were present as observers.

Another speaker, the Rev. John T. Shea of Notre Dame University, observed that the Catholic laity is being stirred to an awareness of their dignity and their role as living members of Christ to transform our world into the Kingdom of God.

"This new vitality of the laity is everywhere present," he said, "in the family circle, in associations of workers and employers, in the arts and sciences and professions; yes, even at the tables of international diplomacy the laity are beginning to realize that they not only belong to the Church, but, in the words of the late Pope Pius XII, they are the Church."

Also discussing the role of Catholic laymen, James Guinan of the Stella Maris House, Portland, Ore., declared that the laity should not only be involved with a specific Catholic group, "but with the work within the multiple organizations that form the context of our social and economic life."

# Moscow Hears Peace Message

Vienna — (NC) — The acting head of the Hungarian Catholic bishops told the Soviet-sponsored World Peace Congress in Moscow that Pope John XXIII "is using all his influence to eliminate war and preserve peace," according to a delayed report reaching here.

Bishop Endre Hamvas of Csanad was one of 31 Hungarian delegates to the July 9 to 14 meeting. Magyar Kurir, Hungarian Catholic news bulletin issued in Budapest, reports that Bishop Hamvas addressed a morning session of the congress in Latin (July 10). He had earlier offered Mass at the Moscow church of St. Louis of the French, the bulletin said.

Magyar Kurir quoted Bishop Hamvas as telling the peace congress: "I am a Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church. As such I am a servant of peace by virtue of my office. My Master and Lord bequeathed to us the law of peace. When taking leave of His disciples He said, 'My peace I leave you, my peace I give you.' He asked repeatedly for this peace which should reach to the roots of the human heart, and considered it so important that He even forbade His disciples to draw their swords in His defense.

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Organized in the Diocese of Cleveland two years ago, the Oblates are a unit of the Oblate Secular Institute with headquarters in Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada.

The Oblates' center, the first of its kind in Ohio, was described by officials as an indication of a growing movement of the laity in the work of the Church in the Cleveland diocese.

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"Second Pulpit"  
Munich — (NC) — Julius Cardinal Doepfner said his diocesan newspaper is "like a second pulpit" from which he can speak to all of his archdiocese of Munich and Freising.

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**GOD LOVE YOU!**  
By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

It is very difficult for our puny minds to grasp why God should permit the Church in China to be destroyed; why He allows Northern Vietnam, which was the most Catholic part of the whole mainland of Asia, to suffer a Communist persecution; why He lets all our schools in the Sudan be closed. Here we must bow down in Faith, for we will never understand why God should allow the Church to be so persecuted when He has the Power to prevent it.

The history of the Church throughout the centuries is a "Sealed Book." The Apocalypse tells us that no one on earth can open it; only the Lamb can do so, and that will not be until the Last Day. We do know that when John saw its mystery, hidden and sealed, he said: "I was all tears." Today's happenings explain his sorrow.

But the difference between God's thoughts and ways and our thoughts and ways is not only in the evil that is done to the Church, but in His mercy to us. God's pardon, unlike ours, is undisturbed by any sense of personal resentment, though sin is an offense against Him. It towers above the loftiest of earth's beauties of forgiveness, as the stars above the plain. We cannot weary His mercy, nor exhaust His pardon.

Sustained by this knowledge, let us who are called, unworthily, to be members of the Church share in all her sorrows and persecutions. Oh, what you could do to your character and disposition if you but daily put a dime at the foot of the Crucifix in your room in honor of the "Sealed Book," and then send it to the Holy Father through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith at the end of each month!

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Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director, Rev. John F. Duffy, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester 4, New York.

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