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Typhoon Mud Clogs Mission

A Catholic mission is slowing its resettlement plans for the area by Typhoon Ida in the middle of this month.

Maryknoll Father James V. O'Halloran, stationed in the Kowloon section of Hong Kong, is conducting clean-up operations in the parish.

A populous area made up of several blocks of seven-story buildings, Hong Kong's concrete housing projects, Kowloon, lay at the base of steep, barren cliffs that rise just feet away from the buildings.

Typhoon Ida, Hong Kong's second tropical storm this year, struck the colony just after midnight on Sunday, August 23. Heavy winds and torrential rains battered the area, loosening the rocks and earth on the mountainsides and causing massive landslides to pour against the apartment walls and sweep the streets.

Washed bits of the "avenue" projects was block U, the section closest to the rubble wall of earth and water that roared down the mountain side. On the ground floor of block U is the Maryknoll Sisters school which was completely submerged under more than three feet of heavy mud.

Desks, chairs and equipment in the school were destroyed by the water and debris that swept into the sixteen ground floor classrooms through louvered wooden windows. The children's playground just outside the school was buried under a thick sea of mud, ranging in depth from three to twelve feet.

Four people living in small "squatters' huts" in Father O'Halloran's parish were reported missing after the storm, and 30 other non-dwellers were homeless. Nearly 2,000 residents of the housing project area were evacuated from their homes shortly after the landslides began in the early hours of the morning.

Clean-up operations and repair work were impeded by the trees, rocks, scaffolding and mud-bound vehicles that blocked the main roads.

With the excitement and tension of the typhoon past, nothing remains but the hard work of repairing Ida's damage. Besides helping his parishioners in the clean-up efforts, Father O'Halloran has worked with the Maryknoll Sisters at the block U school to assess the damage to the school facilities.

It is still uncertain the mission will be able to open its doors for the fall semester that begins early in September.

The son of Mrs. Sophia I. O'Halloran of 28 Avondale Rd., Rochester, and the late Mr. O'Halloran, is a graduate of Corpus Christi School and of St. Andrew's Seminary before entering Maryknoll in 1949 to study for the foreign missionary priesthood.

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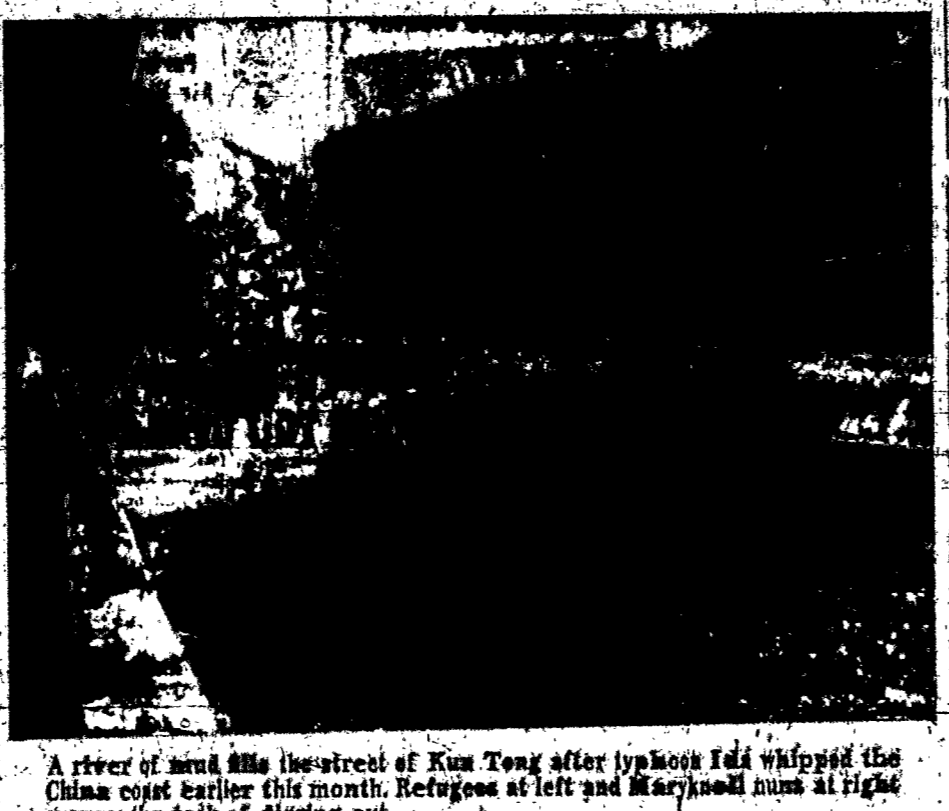

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A river of mud fills the street of Kowloon after typhoon Ida whipped the China coast earlier this month. Refugees at left and Maryknoll nuns at right survey the task of digging out.

72 Native Prelates Rule Church in Africa

Vatican City—(RNS)—With the recent appointment of Father Alberto Ndongmo as Bishop of Nkongssamba in the Cameroun, the number of native-born bishops in Africa has now reached 72, Vatican Radio reported.

Listed among the African prelates, it was said, were one cardinal, 16 archbishops and 55 bishops.

The largest number of native prelates—11 in all—are in the Republic of Congo, the station said.

Tanganyika follows with eight native prelates, among whom is Laurean Cardinal Rugamba, Bishop of Bukoba.

Vatican Radio recalled that the first African raised to the episcopacy was Archbishop Joseph Kiwuka of Rugaba in Uganda, who will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his consecration on Oct. 29.

Goldwater 'Perturbs' British

London—(RNS)—Mixed feelings of hope and fear in Britain over the nomination of Barry Goldwater as the next President of the United States were expressed in editorials published by Roman Catholic newspapers here.

All Catholic journals gave considerable news coverage of his nomination but they wavered while to give full consideration to its implications before rushing their views into print. When they did so, some of their comments were strong.

The Catholic Herald, which devoted a long lead editorial to "The Psychology of Goldwater," commented:

"It is not the thought of Goldwater's flight on the tiger which alone perturbs us. Even if he reached the White House, responsibility would probably fall on his wrath. The basic error is that he threatens a reversal of history that would put the whole world back a century."

Whom would react against the 19th Century's individualism. We reacted against Communism too far—and forgot

Community. It was the role of President Kennedy—as of Pope John—to redress the balance again. And it is this that Goldwater would undo.

"The Americans must recognize their greatness in an idiom other than Goldwater's. This is a mighty nation, working out its salvation and that of the world. It has to lead through a painful dialectic, a cranial stagger from one side to the other. But the resultant must be an evolution true to the destiny history has marked out for the United States."

A well-known Catholic writer, Norman St. John Stevas, declared in his Catholic Herald column:

"The more one reflects on the Republican choice the more one sees it as a disaster for the Americans at home, a weakening of the Western alliance abroad, and a threat to the stability and peace of the entire world."

"This is not the snap reaction of a member of the liberal establishment but the considered view of virtually every informed political commentator

in Britain and the story has been the same in Europe, the Commonwealth and the uncommitted world."

He added that Catholics should regard Senator Goldwater's economic views with suspicion, "since they restate the classic liberal doctrine of John Stuart Mill, which success since 1945 has rightly condemned as inimical to the true dignity of man." (John Stuart Mill, English economist and philosopher of 1806-73, based his beliefs on the greatest happiness of the greatest number as the sole aim of good government and the pursuit of happiness in an altruistic sense as the proper objective of social human conduct.)

Another line was taken by an old-established Roman Catholic review, The Tablet.


It also devoted its lead editorial to Sen. Goldwater, saying:

"Senator Goldwater can strike a note of vigorous protest against the way things have been going inside and outside the United States, but there is no evidence that he would do

he it in himself. Senator Goldwater is identified with extremist views and positions which both in home and foreign policy would mean a very radical break with the policies of President Kennedy and President Johnson.


"It would be wise, however, not to condemn this selection out of hand or to dismiss it as the result of slick electioneering, but to inquire into and take note of the various factors—resentment, complaint, impatience with compromise which have brought about this considerable reaction in American politics."

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Bridgeport Priest Named To Birch Society Council

New York—(RNS)—A Catholic priest has been named a member of the National Council of the John Birch Society.

Father Francis E. Fenlon, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church at Bridgeport, Conn., was cheered at a Birch rally here when he was introduced as a member of the council. He had delivered the invocation at the start of the meeting, attended by 1,400.

In November 1963, Father Fenlon was censured by the Diocese of Bridgeport for urging his parishioners to sign a petition calling for impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren.

A diocesan announcement at that time said the priest's action was "to put it mildly, ill advised and uncalled for."

It said Father Fenlon had acted "in open contumacious disregard of the directions previously given him by his ecclesiastical superiors."

According to the report, the priest had advised his parishioners to sign the petition en masse.

Members of the Birch Society. More than 600 signatures were secured. He told the press that he favored the impeachment of the Chief Justice, "because of the anti-God and pro-Communist decisions of the Supreme Court."

In June 1963, Bruce Alger (RNS) placed in The Congressional Record a defense of the John Birch Society written by Father Fenlon.

The priest defined it as "an organization of informed, dedicated, religiously motivated Americans of all nationalities and creeds banded together for the purpose of exercising, under competent direction, a concrete program of education and action toward the ultimate goal of a less centralized, more limited government, more personal responsibility and a better world."

Archbishop Dies

Brescia—(RNS)—Archbishop Giacinto Tedlici, Bishop of Brescia, died here at the age of 84. He had occupied the see