

Church Acts to Aid Hurricane Celia Victims

Corpus Christi, Tex.—(NC)—Savage Hurricane Celia's fury was felt in millions of dollars of damage and countless personal losses, but she left spirits undaunted, declared Corpus Christi Bishop Thomas J. Drury after a tour of crippled coastal towns in his damaged South Texas diocese.

"It's marvelous, the spirit that the people have," he said, noting that they were working side-by-side with priests to fix up their battered homes and businesses in Portland, Gregory, Arkansas Pass and Rockport—towns on the bishop's first 200-mile lap of his tour of injured areas.

Celia, the worst hurricane of the season, left 31 dead—five in Cuba, 14 in Florida and 12 in Texas. Along with the deaths

and injuries, she almost totally blacked out communications and power — imposing her own in the form of winds as strong as 160 miles an hour.

When the storm ripped into Texas Aug. 3, scores of towns were paralyzed and residents were sent fleeing amid a panorama of debris to churches and schools for shelter.

They gathered at such places as Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Victoria and were in the school of Incarnate Word Sisters for food and a place to sleep while maintaining a vigil for injured relatives and friends.

The basement of Corpus Christi's Cathedral, said Bishop Drury, was turned into one of the estimated 30 American Red

Cross refugee centers in the area. Into those centers were trucked tons of food and thousands of gallons of water to temporarily assist thousands of persons.

Atop the cathedral tons of masonry shifted, straining the roof but it did not give way. In comparison to extensive damage to many buildings along the coast, the bishop said, most churches in the area were not seriously damaged.

"In light of the severity of the storm," Bishop Drury added, "God was good to us . . . we're grateful."

Meanwhile in Washington, the Catholic Disaster Relief Committee worked out of the National Conference of Catholic Charities office to try to communicate with clergymen in

South Texas about their necessities.

But, with an estimated 100,000 telephones out of service in the Corpus Christi area alone and only one highway open in the area, communication was impossible until the morning of Aug. 5. That's when Bishop Drury spoke to John Hayes, assistant secretary of the conference.

Hayes reported that to meet demands, Bishop Drury is sending to ravaged towns 10 teams of four or five nuns each to "reach those with the greatest needs—the poor."

"The bishop has given each group \$1,000," Hayes added, to be spent in ways the local priests think will be most beneficial to the needy.

Hayes said that the bishop stressed that "we could fix up the churches later, but people need help first."

It's the long-range needs and repairs that will probably be most pressing, Bishop Drury said.

During his journey he said he saw "roads strewn with glass and tree branches and debris swept up out of the ocean."

"All along the way I could see people out working. Most of the churches we found safe, but in Engleside, Our Lady of the Assumption church was taken completely off its foundation," he said.

Along with others, he mopped out water-soaked churches and visited his priests and people to minister to their needs.



As in all civil conflicts, violence rages amid everyday activities. At left masked British soldiers crouch behind an overturned car in Belfast during recent rioting. At right, meanwhile, a group of Catholic and Protestant youths sing together at an experimental camp in Londonderry, which is sponsored by churches in the Belfast area. (RNS Photo)

Paradox in N. Ireland

British Ecumenists Endorse Intercommunion in Weddings

London (RNS) — The suggestion that non-Catholic partners be admitted to Communion at a wedding Mass was endorsed as "ecumenically fruitful" at a conference of Christian unity workers sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Seventy-five persons engaged in Christian Unity work came from all parts of England and Wales to attend the conference at Coloma College in Kent. The conference was sponsored by the Ecumenical Commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Catholic representatives included four of the Ecumenical Commission's five bishops — Bishop Thomas Holland of Salford, Auxiliary Bishop Langton Fox of Menevia, Wales, Auxiliary Bishop Geoffrey Burke of Salford and Auxiliary Bishop Alan Clark of Northampton.

A substantial majority voted that "non-participating attendance at each other's Eucharists fosters union, and we ask that it should be more encouraged."

There was then a further discussion whether other Christians might occasionally be admitted to Communion at Mass, especially the bride or groom at a mixed marriage ceremony.

On the one hand it was argued that the partners at such time were already united in Christ by their baptism; they had just entered a further stage of unity in the Sacrament of Matrimony, and thus should at

this point express their unity by receiving the Eucharist.

Against this, it was argued that communion is between Churches; the partners could not help being representatives of those Churches, and they would be making the ultimate expression of unity between Churches when that unity had not in fact been accomplished.

Many speakers felt that this one-sided admission to Communion is in essence unecumenical, and could seem like offensive proselytizing to other Christians.

Another discussion followed on the individual acts of inter-

communion which are in fact taking place, particularly among younger people, despite the official prohibition. They feel that they have discovered a unity in Christ which their Churches have yet to discover.

Against this, others argued that since the Churches were not in fact united, those people who took part in intercommunion were breaking their Communion with their own Churches, and producing a new 'third Church.' If Eucharistic Communion were used when inter-Church unity had not been realized, what was to remain as the final sign of the united Church?

Church Aims Attack At Poverty's Causes

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Michael R. Dempsey of Chicago has been named to direct the Catholic Church's \$50-million "Campaign for Human Development."

Plans for the drive, which is intended to attack the root causes of poverty in America, were announced by John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit, national chairman.

The Campaign for Human Development was approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to begin at Thanksgiv-

ing time this year. A collection will be taken Nov. 22.

Bishop Dempsey cautioned that the campaign should not be regarded as a mere procurement of funds for the poor.

"The poor in America need much more than alms; they need self-respect," Bishop Dempsey said. "They need the door of opportunity to open equally for them. They need, not cast off housing and inferior education, but the quality housing and education that is available for all Americans."

'Third World' Battle Flares

Buenos Aires — (RNS) —

About 60 Argentine priests joined with Catholic laymen from all strata of church life to demand that the nation's bishops condemn the progressive Third World Movement, which they charged with "inciting to violence as a means of correcting just and imaginary social wrongs."

But a priest from the admittedly socialist movement, Father Carlos Mugica, immediately denounced the "campaign to defame and disfigure" the Third World Movement.

Father Mugica denied that his movement "preaches violence" but instead denounced "institutionalized violence which maintains unjust structures which keep power in the hands of the few and out of reach of the people."

Argentina's leading Catholic prelates met Aug. 4 with the Argentine President to discuss the situation thought to be undermining the church. Church authorities are said to be contemplating quick and decisive action to halt public uneasiness over church unrest and growing clamor over religious disintegration.

Last May, 120 priest-members of the Third World Movement affirmed their allegiance to Catholicism but stated that the future of Argentina requires a socialist state "according to the Bible."

Doctor Grads Hit Hospital On Abortions

Philadelphia — (NC) — Seven 1970 graduates of Thomas Jefferson University medical school here condemned the present abortion policy at the university hospital as "morally and ethically unacceptable and unjustifiable."

The seven said the policy "has horrendous ramifications in all areas of human society and endangers the very principle of the individual's right to life."

Prior to 1969, it was reported, approximately 100 therapeutic abortions were performed at the hospital, but in 1969 the number rose to 800 and now between 20 and 25 a week are performed.

The seven said they are aware of "today's social ills which have prompted the use of abortion as an apparent solution to the problems of poverty, illegitimacy and irresponsible parenthood."

"We firmly believe that a human embryo exists as an individual human being from the moment of conception and on this basis has a right to life regardless of his gestational age," they asserted.

"Thus, we firmly believe that electively terminating pregnancy at any gestational age with the intent of fetal death is the intentional killing of a human being," they declared.

The seven are Michael K. Farrell, George Isajiw, Robert P. Johnson, George W. Kern IV, Edward M. Laska, James B. McGovern Jr., and Jon P. Walheim.

They expressed appreciation to the university for their education and training, but also said as "we are about to take the Hippocratic oath, we feel morally obligated to express our firm convictions and to unequivocally condemn the present abortion policy at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital."

DONATE FURNITURE

Montellano, Spain — (NC) — The Sisters of the Holy Cross here have celebrated the 50th anniversary of their convent by tearing it down and donating the furnishings to the poor. The building no longer meets minimum safety requirements. It was built in 1920.