

SPECIAL FLOOD COVERAGE EDITION

COURIER-JOURNAL

'People Are the First Priority'



Altar Toppled

The side altar at St. Peter and Paul was toppled by flood waters. At the height of the flood the church was filled with about 8 feet of water.

Key to Flood Coverage Inside

All regular Courier-Journal features are included in this special edition but because of the extensive flood coverage have been moved to pages other than their normal positions. For instance, Bishop Hogan's column and the editorial may be found on PAGE 20.

Here is a key to some special flood stories:

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By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Nearly \$75,000 was collected by diocesan churches in last Sunday's emergency collection for Southern Tier flood victims.

Most of that money will go to direct aid of people who suffered property losses and damage.

The \$74,982 counted thus far has come from about 75 percent of the parishes outside the disaster area.

"People are the first priority. The church buildings will be taken care of after people are," Sister James Lynch said, speaking for the diocese.

Twenty thousand of those dollars will go to the Red Cross, to be used for general assistance to families — to provide food, clothing, cooking utensils, bedding and towels, tables and chairs, irons and ironing boards. It will also be used to help people to purchase such basic but expensive appliances as stoves and refrigerators, by lending the down payments.

The diocese has not only supplied Red Cross with money,

food and clothing from last week's collection, but also with many of its volunteers. Nuns from Rochester make up 50% of the staff at Red Cross distribution centers in both Elmira and Corning.

A representative of the diocese from the flooded area is serving as a member of the Gannett Company's board to decide how their contribution of \$100,000 will be directed. He is Father Henry Adamski, pastor of St. Casimir in Elmira.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey traveled to Corning and Bishop John E. McCafferty went to Elmira Wednesday to find out from the pastors in the water ravaged cities what the fundamental needs of the people are, so cash could be put to use by Friday. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan toured the disaster area earlier.

On Monday, all the department heads from the Pastoral Office, plus the three bishops, are going to meet with the priests and nuns of both cities to discuss their needs and rehabilitation of the Churches and schools, convents and rectories.

Elmira Digs Out, Assessing Begins

By DICK BAUMBACH
Elmira Correspondent

Elmira — Service men stationed in Vietnam have a saying: "When I die I know I'll go to Heaven because I served my time in Hell." Thousands and thousands of Elmira residents now fit the same category after fighting their way against the worst flood disaster ever to hit New York State.

All was placid and calm two weeks ago today in Elmira with not a thought in the world of what was to come. The situation changed radically at 5:32 a.m. Friday June 23, when rampaging flood waters tore through this community bringing havoc and destruction.

The first structures to be born-

barded by the murky, brown waters included the rectory and church of St. Peter and Paul parish. Damage is still being assessed by Father Edward Foy, who had been named pastor the week before.

Across the street from St. Peter and Paul is St. Joseph's Hospital. For three days the hospital was an island unto itself.

Army helicopter pilots made hundreds of trips to the hospital to remove patients to higher ground. Construction crews began work almost before flood waters receded to get the hospital back in working order. However, the medical facility is still in a quasi open status.

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Courier Special

A Courier-Journal news and photo team visited sections of the flood-ravaged Southern Tier last week to gather material for this special section.

Headed by Anthony J. Costello, general manager, and Carmen J. Viglucci, editor, the team included Laurence E. Keefe, who took all the flood pictures in this issue, unless otherwise indicated, and writers Barbara Moynehan and Charles Randisi.

Putting it all together at the home desk were Dash and Margaret Connolly.

In order to keep readers as up to date as possible on the plight of those in the Southern Tier the paper is being delivered on Saturday, four days earlier than the usual Wednesday.