



St. Patrick's School in Corning built in 1960 became flood victim.

Report on Diocesan Churches

By CHARLES RANDISI

Tropical storm Agnes, causing the worst flooding in the history of New York State, battered many diocesan churches.

In Elmira, Ss. Peter and Paul Church was in the worst condition. There were seven feet of water in the nave of the church, and the flood left behind a thick mud carpet over the whole church. The convent and rectory were in similar shape. The floors were buckled, the convent chapel was a memory, and audio-visual equipment being stored in the convent was ruined.

At St. Cecilia's, Father Edward Foy said that the basement had flooded, but that water didn't get into the church. "We had time to get things out of there," he said. "There are still about two feet of water in the cellar."

St. John's Church was right in the heart of the storm, but there was little damage.

In Corning, St. Vincent's Church fared about as well as Ss. Peter and Paul. The water level inside the church was at six feet. Statues floated out into the pews, and a few windows had been broken.

St. Patrick's Church was in fair shape. However, the school suffered a great deal. Water found its way underneath the school, and forced a wall to cave in.

St. Mary's Church seemed to have slight damage.

Horseheads was not touched by the waters. Father Bartholomew O'Brien, pastor of St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads, said that on Sunday, June 25, he asked families to "sign up and open their homes to homeless families."

Father O'Brien said, "We tried to take some of the burden off the congested conditions in the schools and other evacuation centers. We wanted to provide beds, food, and showers. So far the response has been very generous. We have ourselves accommodated 10 people in our rectory, and five in the convent."

In Auburn, flooding and damage were estimated at between \$10 million and \$15 million. How-

ever, little damage was done to Catholic churches there.

Father John Glogowski, associate pastor at Holy Family, acted as the Red Cross disaster relief chairman for Cayuga County. He said that there was much danger throughout the crisis because "the dam could have gone anytime. It was touch and go most of the time."

Ten thousand people in Auburn had to be evacuated. St. Alphonsus Church set up a collection depot for food and supplies. They also housed 200 evacuees. Sister Mary Dorothy, St. Alphonsus School's principal, headed the shelter operation.

Unity House, the old Case Mansion, and formerly the Carmelite Monastery, opened its doors to "upwards of 250 people," according to Father Glogowski. Giovannetti Nursing Home was forced to move its entire population there.

St. Aloysius Church, although not damaged by the flood was very close to several homes that were victimized. Five people stayed in the church hall.

Holy Family Church also offered its facilities to the Red Cross, but since the church was

directly in the path of the flood there was little it could do.

St. Gabriel's Church in Hammondsport reported no damage to the church or rectory, but one destitute family was taken in.

At St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Hornell Father Joseph Haffey said, "We can thank God there wasn't any damage done." He reported a little water in the basement, but that was all.

Father Louis Vasile at St. Ann's in Hornell said that the school and church basements were flooded, and that several nuns had to be evacuated. "The co-operation of the community is indicative of the people's good will," he said.

Father Otto Vogt, pastor at St. Joachim in Canisteo and St. Mary in Rexville, said, "We have been blessed. Compared to Elmira and Corning, our damage was little."

"The crisis has passed," he continued. "The community is now thinking of its blessings and showing their great concern for other areas. It has brought the community together."

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Canandaigua Hit by Flood Still Comes to Aid

By PAT BOLAND

Canandaigua — The flood which saw this city's pier under water for the first time in history and Caruso's and Polemini's restaurants destroyed, also saw a large response from church-affiliated people for those suffering greater damage, especially in the Corning area.

This week, the pastor of Wesleyan Methodist Church paid a visit to Corning, and on his return, placed an ad for food and clothing in the local paper.

The Rev. Olson Clark's ad asked Canandaiguans to deposit goods at the side door of his church. He said he would personally distribute their generosity in Corning.

Later that day, Mrs. Clark tried to leave her husband's church by the side door only to find it impassable because of the goods piled against it.

Mrs. Clark then called Canandaigua's Volunteer Action Center for help in removing the material.

Marilyn Herrgesell, president of the Center, said that the collection required two vans and three pick-up trucks to get it to Corning.

She also said that her center's staff is about 90 per cent church-affiliated.

Area Catholic churches took up a collection last Sunday.

The money will be distributed to flood victims by the Office of Human Development.

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