



Maryknoll Photo

Tragedy Lingers

Thousands of words already have been written about the devastating earthquake that struck Managua, Nicaragua, two days before Christmas, killing thousands of people and leaving countless more homeless.

The real story of the tragedy, however, is told in the faces of the disaster victims. The people who survived were left without homes, without food, without water, without means of communication and in many cases without anyone to turn to for help.

The response to the disaster of people more fortunate was immediate and enormous. Nicaraguans were the first to respond, supplying their fellow citizens with food, clothing and shelter. Thousands of Nicaraguans worked for days in the ruined city, searching for survivors, providing immediate medical care, distributing emergency food and water and assisting government and Church officials in plans for rehabilitation.

Then the volunteers and relief supplies began to flow in from around the world. Within two weeks U.S. Catholic Relief Services had sent 9 million pounds of food, 360,000 pounds of clothing, a million water purification tablets and 1,000 cartons of high energy food biscuits.

The Maryknoll Sisters, who work in the Managua area, were among the first North Americans on hand to aid in relief efforts. The Maryknoll Fathers, who have no priests or Brothers in the immediate area, sent two representatives to the earthquake-torn city to meet with government and Church officials, assess the situation and lay groundwork for Maryknoll's long-range relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Two Inner City Schools to Close

(Continued from Page 1)
to all eight CICIP member parishes, to be jointly run by them.

After more than two months of intensive investigation and brainstorming, the special task force offered three options to the CICIP for the final decision.

The task force was made up of principals of the six schools involved, a Title I administrator and a representative from the diocesan education office with Sister Barbara Fox, principal of Immaculate Conception, as its chairman.

The other two recommendations were:

- Plan A — offered a system dividing students by grade levels, using four school buildings. On the east side of the city, Holy Redeemer would have been a primary school, St. Francis Xavier, intermediate, and St. Michael's a junior high school, with Immaculate Conception serving the west side of the city offering primary through eight grades. Total enrollment would have been about 1,275, 200 less than present with cost about the same as this year, \$500,000. According to this plan three buildings would have closed: Mt. Carmel, St. Lucy's and St. Bridget's.

- Plan C, was a single school concept where a student could go to one school from K-8 grades. Immaculate Conception, on the west, and St. Michael's on the east, would have both served grades K-8. St. Francis Xavier would have served K-6; total enrollment, 1,075 students. Total

estimated cost of \$430,000 would be a drop of \$80,000 from present costs. Four school buildings would have closed under this plan — Holy Redeemer, St. Bridget's, Mt. Carmel and St. Lucy's.

"Each plan had advantages," according to Father Raymond Booth, co-pastor of Mt. Carmel's and CICIP spokesman. "Plan A had the educational advantage of better grouping, Plan B the adopted recommendation, has the advantage of neighborhood schools and Plan C offered continuity."

The adoption of the neighborhood school system affirms the findings of a survey on the Church's role in the inner city, Father Booth said.

The most significant thing to Father Booth in the adopted plan is that it "includes two schools, Mt. Carmel and St. Bridget's, in hard core and I was pleased to see they were maintained, the other two plans kept school on the fringe areas," he explained.

Before the vote was taken Sunday night, considerable time was spent discussing criteria for admissions. A committee was set up to come up with criteria, though it was agreed that a large percentage of the students should be poor, which was also favored by those surveyed.

More than 100 interested people and staff of the schools attended the meeting held on the eve of Martin Luther King Day.

Six of the 11-member Council

Private School Aid Called Civil Right

(Continued from Page 1)

spoke on "The Constitution and Aid."

"I would like to expose the myth about separation of Church and State," he said. "It's a myth. It doesn't exist."

He pointed out that the Supreme Court has ruled that no funds can be given for nonpublic school teachers to teach secular courses, but at the same time New York State has mandated the ways nonpublic schools must teach.

"And where was the hue and cry," he said, "during the flood of 1972?" The aid that Catholic groups gave, to flood victims, he said, "demonstrates how much the parochial is involved in the public."

About 20 per cent of all students in New York receive their education in nonpublic schools. If private and parochial schools were forced to close, he said the added cost to New York taxpayers would be in excess of \$2 billion.

He also criticized the Supreme Court for using a "constitutional legalism" in striking down legislation that would aid nonpublic schools. He quoted the Court as saying that more effort to aid parochial schools "promotes political divisiveness."

Contiguglia also mentioned several bills which he said were more directly related to aiding parents of nonpublic school children.

A Federal District Court recently upheld the constitutionality of Tax Credit Plan, which would benefit parents whose income is between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

"It's something," Contiguglia said, "although it isn't as much as we'd like."

J. Alan Davitt was the final speaker. He talked about "Pending Legislation and the Need for Organized Parents."

"Parochial schools," he said, "face two basic problems. First, financially, and second, a commitment crisis."

He made it clear that what parochial schools are seeking is "assistance." He does not expect that the state should "pick up the

total tab." Aid, he said, should relieve "only part of that financial burden."

He said that the reason for this is that "we must be protected from excessive entanglement by the government... I believe that total support means total control."

On the subject of pending legislation, Davitt said, "Proposals this year will have to concentrate on programs of lesser priorities. But a major bill can be tried this year," because every avenue has been tried and all that can be done is to await the outcomes of

constitutionality tests.

The major effort of supporters of private school aid this year, Davitt said, will be the dual enrollment plan, whereby "a child has the right to attend a public school on a part-time basis."

Another effort will be directed toward an extension of the textbook loan law for children in grades one through six.

Davitt is "intensely confident" that nonpublic school aid will succeed. "We have to fight," he said, "and we must never lose heart."

Bishops Approve Basic Teachings

Washington, D.C. (RNS)—The U.S. Roman Catholic bishops have approved for publication a 37-page document on "Basic Teachings for Catholic Religious Education," which has been two years in preparation, it was announced here.

The document, which incorporates three main themes of Catholic teaching — prayer, liturgy and Scripture — and expresses the essential elements of the Catholic faith, is expected to be published in pamphlet form

for use by parents, Catholic schools, confraternity programs and those who give adult courses in religious education.

The document includes 28 pages of doctrine, two appendices containing the Commandments, Beatitudes, precepts, formulae, and 116 footnotes. It was prepared by an ad hoc committee of bishops headed by Archbishop John F. Whealon of Hartford, Conn. Approval required a two-thirds affirmative vote by the prelates.

McCurdy's

safari shirt
plus skirt

\$72

It's the new "Born Free" way of dressing everybody's talking about. Shirt-tail shirt tied over a separate skirt — easy as you, excitingly new in shock green with navy polyester crepe. Stalk down this very new look today in McCurdy's First Impressions, Second Floor, Midtown.