

Fr. Beatini Delivered Local Aid

CRS Praised for Efforts for Italy Quake Victims

The work of Catholic Relief Services has come in for bountiful praise from a diocesan priest who recently took part in efforts to restore normalcy to the earthquake-smitten area of northern Italy.

The area was hit by two earthquakes, the first May 6 and the second Sept. 15.

A Rochester area committee spearheaded by Arthur Anzalone,

vice consul for the Italian government in upstate New York, was organized to raise money for the quake victims.

Father Joseph Beatini, pastor of Assumption of Our Lady Church in Fairport, personally took \$24,838.79 to the area to see to it that "it went directly to the people in need."

"Let me stress," said Father Beatini upon his return, "that

would never have been able to accomplish anything without the help of Catholic Relief Services — and remember," he added, "they were helping me as an outsider since none of the local contributions were going to CRS."

Father Beatini told of contacting Msgr. Landi of CRS before going to Italy. Among the knowledgeable tips offered by Msgr. Landi was that the first order of business was "to get people back in their houses."

Some less experienced people might think of rebuilding schools or institutions, explained Father Beatini, but "as I learned from Msgr. Landi, if you get people back in their homes they will take care of the rest."

The CRS help continued, Father Beatini said. A representative who met him upon his arrival in Italy already had cleared Father Beatini's path with the local archbishop, and through him an immediate meeting with the prelate and other priests was arranged.

"Without that help," said Father Beatini, "I wouldn't have been able to find anybody in the aftermath of the quake."

The original intent was to distribute the money for the rebuilding of houses but the Italian

government had stopped repair work until specifications could be established to make homes earthquake-resistant.

Thus an alteration of plans brought Father Beatini into contact with Father Peter Londero of Gemona in the Friuli region. This retired priest had been helping quake victims build new homes which would satisfy government stipulations.

With the financial assistance from Rochester, work has been under way upon 15 homes in four different towns — each family having been contacted personally. Father Beatini said he received a recent progress report indicating things were going smoothly.

Father Londero is able to purchase building materials at wholesale prices and he passes the savings along to the families. In addition, the homes are of a new

design, wooden, American style, and Father Londero helps each family in building the houses. In addition, according to Father Beatini, neighbors also help in the building.

"Again," Father Beatini emphasized, "I can't say enough good about the Catholic Relief Services."

Anzalone praised the Rochester community for raising the money, particularly the Rochester Friuli Committee, headed by Thomas Laverne. Others who took part were Mrs. Peter DeLucia, Mrs. Raymond LeChase, Joseph Anzalone, August Ginnavola, Mary Proia, Sam Gaglio, Frank Cicerio, Joseph Capogreco, and Louis D'Angelo.

As for Father Beatini, he feels he may go back next year — "on my own" — to see the completion of the building projects that had their start right here in the Rochester diocese.

Thousands March For Peace in Ireland

London [RNS] — Thousands of men, women, and children marched from London's Hyde Park to

Trafalgar Square to sing and pray for peace in Northern Ireland.

Cardinal Basil Hume, archbishop of Westminster and Catholic primate of England, Archbishop Donald Coggan of Canterbury, spiritual leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion and the Rev. John Huxtable, moderator of the Free Church Federal Council in Britain, joined in praying for an end to more than seven years of deadly sectarian feuding in the British province.

Police estimated the crowd drawn from Northern Ireland, Ireland, Britain, West Germany, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United States, at anywhere from 10,500 to 15,000. A group of Buddhists from Japan were among the marchers.

The rally was sponsored by the Northern Ireland Women's Peace Movement, founded last August by two Belfast women, Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan.

Attempts by a group of IRA supporters to interrupt the rally by chanting, "British troops out!" of Northern Ireland were met and smothered by hymn-singing by the crowd of peace demonstrators.

The rally ended with all three Church leaders, the peace movement's organizers, Joan Baez, British actress Diana Rigg, and others on the platform linking arms and singing with the assembled thousands, "Auld Lang Syne."



Resigns Priesthood

Father Gregory Baum, OSA, the renowned scholar and Roman Catholic theologian, has resigned from the active priesthood and petitioned Pope Paul for laicization. His decision was announced in a letter to his colleagues at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, where he teaches theology. In the letter, Father Baum, an Augustinian who is a convert from Judaism, cited an inability "to resolve a difference with my religious order for almost a year" and several unsuccessful attempts to become a secular priest as his reasons for resigning from the active priesthood. [RNS]



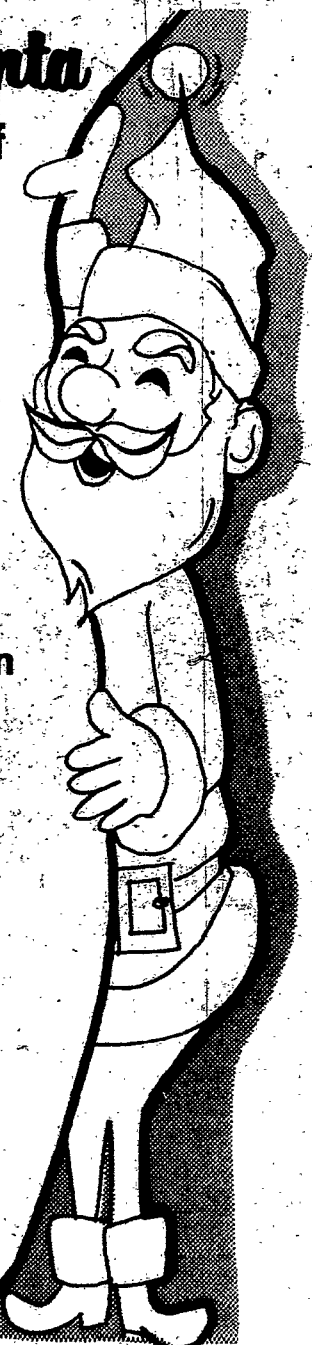
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