

# CRS Director Denies Tie-in With Government

Miami (RNS) — Bishop Edwin Broderick, executive director of Catholic Relief Services, denied — in a report on the worldwide activities of the U. S. Catholic bishops' agency — that CRS has been acting as an agent of U.S. foreign policy in its humanitarian work, as charged recently by the National Catholic Reporter.

The prelate acknowledged that, like many other U.S. voluntary relief agencies, it strengthens its humanitarian programs

through assistance in food and funds authorized by the U. S. Congress" and administered by the government. But, he added:

"Contrary to the recent reports in the National Catholic Reporter the initiatives are taken by the recipient agencies in keeping with their respective policies and practices. In our case the government assists the humanitarian work of CRS and not vice versa."

The prelate was in Miami to conclude a series of

regional meetings in six U.S. cities and to report on the world wide activities of the agency and its plans for the coming year.

Bishop Broderick said "CRS helps the needy regardless of race, color, creed or politics. The response to grass roots requests of the poor is in terms of need not-creed. Of the some 18 million people helped last year, perhaps two-thirds were non-Catholics and non-Christians."

In seeking and receiving U.S. assistance, he added, "CRS is carrying out its own policies and objectives. Often these coincide with the humanitarian policies of the government. CRS does not have to apologize that it is American as well as Catholic."

Discussing current work in Egypt, Bishop Broderick said CRS activities in that country have been approved by the Egyptian government. "Our program does include distribution of Food-for-Peace commodities but the program there, as in other countries, is oriented toward the needs of the poorest and most needy as determined by our CRS staff."

He said that operations "typical" of the agency's independence include a recent intervention in India following the disastrous cyclones and floods last November. Because its staff was already at work in the country, he said CRS "was in a position to sponsor a broad program of relief and rehabilitation and to suggest means by which supplemental U.S. food and funds could be used."

Bishop Broderick said "we hope to attract various sources of assistance, including that of the U.S. government, as well as from national and international organizations."

## 'Mini Courses' At St. John's

St. John the Evangelist Elementary School, Humboldt St., has begun a program that provides an opportunity for special educational experiences for its students.

On Wednesday afternoons, through March 29, students will take "mini-courses" in such subjects as Spanish culture, crocheting, gymnastics, art and even a "Young Boatman's" course for the fifth and sixth graders.

Volunteers and faculty from St. John's and Blessed Sacrament conduct the "mini-courses" and student response has been enthusiastic, according to school spokesmen. Plans for extending the courses to Blessed Sacrament Junior High School should be effective in the next school year.

Mary's, Elmira. Second was St. Mary's, Canandaigua.

Father Gordinier of Cato- phoned. "Come to supper after your Saturday night Mass. We're only eight miles away." About 4:30 p.m. I blew into Cato — starved! Housekeeper Helen Dalton had just returned after a five-week convalescence. Fr. G's sister Catherine had prepared a good supper, including baked scalloped oysters. At 1:30, back to Weedsport.

The Sunday Masses were at 9 and 11 a.m., with religion classes in between. So I visited each of the eight classes and teachers. The parish also has a good folk group, but is having a problem getting a sung Lord's Prayer that will satisfy all parishioners. I told Mrs. Drury, the director, "There is a beautiful Mass of St. Francis, sung by 110 children of Cork, which I bought in Ireland. The Lord's Prayer is ideal for here. Let me send it to you. It will satisfy everybody." "Please do."

As you know, I am obsessed by the conviction that The People want to know their religion better, without enduring a course in advanced theology. They have been badgered into uncertainties by uncertain and contradicting teachers. Abp. Whealon of Hartford has written an excellent 130 pages, blue and black book, Living the Catholic Faith Today, which is for Grass Roots Catholics. It gives an uncomplex explanation of the faith and what to do about it. At Mass I explained the book. (I have sold 900 copies and am selling more.) It is the weakness to recommend a good thing, and then not have it available; so I brought a crate of books and had the ushers sell them. There are 110 books floating around Weedsport, and from a congregation of 400 persons, adults and children, that is a high percentage.

Getting out good books is like planting fruit trees. They continue to furnish fruit over the years. People want to know more about their religion, but we priests tend to foist on them difficult theological books. Why not offer them what they can and will read with profit!

Sometime I should like to be invited to Apalachin; and Owego, Newark Valley and Catatonk parishes. They are so removed from the See City, yet they are such important parts of the diocese. I hear good things of your own apostolate, and give thanks to God and Our Blessed Mother for the fine priest that you are. Prospera!

## ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

To Fr. Elmer Schmidt:

This letter is being written from beautiful St. Ann's Home in Rochester, where I am substituting for Fr. Jack Hempel for two weeks. The 130 miles from your Apalachin parish to Rochester seems like the Alpha to the Omega of the Diocese.

A month ago I met Fr. Elmer Heindl at Fr. Wahl's rectory in Auburn. He said, "Fathers Ed and Al Shamon and I plan to go on a sailing cruise for two weeks." His eyes sparkled as he anticipated hoisting sails, cooking meals and celebrating Mass on the boat. "Could you cover Weedsport Friday through Sunday, Jan. 6-8?" "Yes, I'd be glad to."

At 4 p.m. I reported to Weedsport. The Religious Ed. coordinator, Mrs. Annie Bachman, and the tiny housekeeper, Mrs. George Hayes, welcomed and greatly assisted me.

At 5:30 p.m. we had the First Friday Mass, with a wedding rehearsal to follow. At Mass I commented, "One cannot understand the day's scripture reading of 1 John without a knowledge of the Gnostic heresy which was agitating the Church and St. John." To engage the people in thought-action, I added, "One dollar to anyone who can spell 'Gnostic.'" A young man in his mid-twenties who was attending carefully, spoke out, "G-n-o-s-t-i-c." "Congratulations. Stop after Mass and collect your dollar." He did, and the humor heightened when he announced himself as the groom-elect, and a non-Catholic. We had the rehearsal, and the next day, a beautiful wedding. The groom has the makings of an intelligent, solid Catholic, and I hope he embraces the faith.

Up to a dozen years ago we stressed the importance of religious unity in marriage. However, fake ecumenism, contrary to Vatican II teaching, has brought about a spineless, soft-peddling of the Gospel. Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church (Mt. 16) As a result, conversions are infrequent. Last year in our diocese, the parish which was first in converts was St.

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