

Pontiff Asks World For Italian Quake Aid

Following is the text of Pope John Paul II's appeal to the world to assist in the relief efforts for victims of southern Italy's Nov. 23 earthquakes.

And now, before reciting our common prayer, I would like to tell you one other thing: yesterday I was able to visit some of the places hit by the earthquake in the areas of Naples, Potenza and Avellino. I was deeply moved, spiritually shocked by everything I was able to see with my own eyes.



And certainly what I saw was only a part, a partial, significant vision, I was able to see not only the destroyed houses, but above all the people, old and young and children, hospitalized at San Carlo Nuovo in Potenza, and also elsewhere: hospitalized under difficult conditions. You know how many dead there are; I was able to meet in Balvano the parish priest of the community in which the mission began on Sunday with the participation of the boys and girls. It was the moment of the first, strongest quake, and many of these youngsters were killed. I saw that parish priest, who

was still stricken with grief two days after the burial of those victims. And then I saw how the people, in this vast zone — because the territorial area of the earthquake is a very extensive one — are living in fear, both in the large cities and in the villages. They abandon their houses because they are afraid, because they fear new quakes. For the quakes are continuing: yesterday it happened in several places and also in Naples. This is a situation that calls for our presence, and our help, moral and material. I must say that I also saw many persons, especially young people, who were already there, ready to help, organizing the necessary aid. Certainly, it is not easy to meet every need in such a disaster. This great tragedy, which the populations of southern Italy, especially Basilicata, are suffering again, demands great solidarity. The solidarity of all Christians and all Italians and also of all foreigners who can help. What is necessary above all at this moment is unity and solidarity: solidarity to help our suffering brothers. Let us pray now for this and let us pray also for these suffering frightened people who are homeless, without a roof over their heads. Many of them are living in tents, in huts, and winter is drawing near. Let us also pray for the dead. The number of the dead is not known exactly, but, unfortunately, it is a high one. Let us pray with these intentions, reciting the Our-Father.

Local Efforts Called 'Heartwarming'

In a measure described variously as "heartwarming," "compassionate," and "incredible," dioceses have responded to the plight of the thousands of victims of the Nov. 23 earthquakes in Southern Italy.

clothing and \$7,000 have been gathered by St. Francis of Assisi Church in Auburn for the relief effort.

Father John Nacca, pastor, stated recently, "We just had our annual Thanksgiving drive for clothing. These

people have risen above and beyond the call. They have been incredible."

In Rochester, Father Joseph Reinhart said the diocesan response was especially "compassionate." Father Reinhart, appointed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark to receive monies for the diocesan Italian Relief effort, reported that as of late last week \$6,308.70 had been received by his office. He also said that \$3,792.20 had been contributed by parishes, with the remainder coming from individual donors.

Services which will then distribute aid in Italy.

CRS revealed last week that it had earmarked \$1 million to the relief effort.

Dioceses wishing to contribute funds to the cause have been asked to send donations to:

Italian Relief
123 East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

Pastor Asks Police To Step Up Patrols

Father Conrad Sundholm, pastor of St. Salome's Church in Irondequoit, has sent a letter to the Irondequoit Town Board requesting "additional personnel be hired to increase police protection in the East Irondequoit area."

The letter was prompted by a recent break-in at St. Salome's where the tabernacle housing the Eucharist and a ciborium were stolen from the altar. The thieves entered the

church through a window in the back of the building. No suspects have been apprehended as yet.

In his letter Father Sundholm said, "Let's face the fact. This Sea Breeze area is a high crime hot spot. The vandalism and robbery up and down Culver Road has to stop: As a community we shall hold the Town Board responsible for police failure to solve a real crisis."

Father William Graf, pastor of Rochester's Church of the Annunciation, described his parishioner's response to a special collection of money and clothing as "overwhelming." He said last week that Annunciation had raised \$1,110, and 4,965 pounds of clothes. Father Graf commented that a great deal of the clothing was new, "with the price tags still on it."

All funds and clothing are being sent to Catholic Relief

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Will you tell them about the Baby in the manger?

The Christmas story is easily understood by the rejected—the refugee, the homeless, the outcast. Yet many, like this Cambodian mother with her child, have never heard it!



This Christmas, would you help tell the Christmas story? Please send a gift to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, supporting the Mission work of the Church around the world. Let the Light of Christ shine into their lives, too!

Assemblywoman Pinny Cooke extends Holiday Greetings and cordially invites her constituents to an Open House at the District Office
 2541 Monroe Avenue
 December 23rd 4-7 p.m.

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 OR: Rev. Joseph F. Reinhart, Diocesan Director, 123 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14604, 716-454-2926

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