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POLAND

Our Aid Is Getting There

By Tammy Tanaka
Religious News Service

Major church agencies providing aid to Poland said they are generally satisfied donations are reaching the needy people, and have called for a stepup in the emergency relief effort.

At the same time, as one church official noted, "the lack of communication makes it tough to know exactly what is happening." He said the overall picture on relief distribution looked about "80 percent positive."

U.S. agency officials who have gone to Poland to check distribution have confirmed the reports of on-site contacts that most of the shipments are getting through as planned. Agencies which established their aid programs before martial

law was imposed are now officially recognized as donors and their supplies of food, clothing, medicines and other essentials are moving relatively smoothly.

But agencies coming in without established distribution channels may face delays or stops, and the final destination of their supplies may be uncertain, agency officials say.

Church agencies now recognized by Polish military leaders as donors include Catholic Relief Services, World Vision International, Church World Service of the National Council of Churches, Lutheran World Relief and affiliates of Baptist World Alliance. Catholics are working through the Polish bishops; most Protestant agencies through the Polish

Fund Hits \$41,796

The fund for Polish relief being collected in the diocese reached \$41,796.63 as of Friday, Jan. 15, according to Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director for missions.

The money will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services which will in turn give it to the Polish bishops conference. Contributions should be sent to the Tribute to Poland Fund, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14601.

'Catholic Relief Services has had assurances that food is getting through and is being distributed . . .'

Ecumenical Council. Baptists are channeling their supplies through the Polish Baptist Union.

"Catholic Relief Services has had assurances from its representative in Poland that food is getting through and is being distributed in the same manner as before martial law," Beth Griffin, CRS spokesman, said. "Distribution is through the Polish bishops to churches in the 27 dioceses of the country. We're continuing to send shipments about every 10 days, mainly flour, oil, rice, milk, butter."

The Catholic agency had already distributed some \$10 million worth of food to Poland before martial law was imposed on Dec. 13 and this year will send another \$10 million in food aid, donated by the U.S. government. Bishop Edwin B. Broderick said distribution of the Catholic donations were closely monitored through a system requiring signed receipts from recipients.

El Salvador Military Aid Draws Fire from Diocesans

The likelihood that 1,500 members of the El Salvador military are being trained in the United States was termed "reprehensible" last week by a diocesan social justice spokesman.

James Lurid, chairman of the Central American Task Force of the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, said, "Essentially, our point of view is consistent with previous positions taken by both the commission and by the United States Catholic Conference. We continue to oppose

military aid in any form to El Salvador; and it is our point of view that military training, whether it takes place in the United States or El Salvador, is military aid.

The question has also drawn strong protest in other quarters. A demonstration took place last week, sponsored by the Rochester Committee on Latin America and promoted by the Rochester Peace and Justice Education Center. Petitions circulated by those groups have drawn the signatures of "50- to 75" persons affiliated

with the diocese and its Division of Social Ministry, Lund said.

The possibility of such training was raised last month by Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Fred C. Ikle in a meeting with a Senate subcommittee.

According to a report in the New York Times, Ikle said that the Reagan administration intended to train a battalion of 1,000 Salvadoran soldiers and between 500 and 600 Salvadoran junior officers.

The same report cited Pentagon officials saying that "the training, which was tentatively scheduled to start during the second week in January, would be less expensive than shipping an American training team to El Salvador and building installations there. It would also be politically better," they said, "since conducting training within the United States would be less likely to arouse criticism in Latin America."

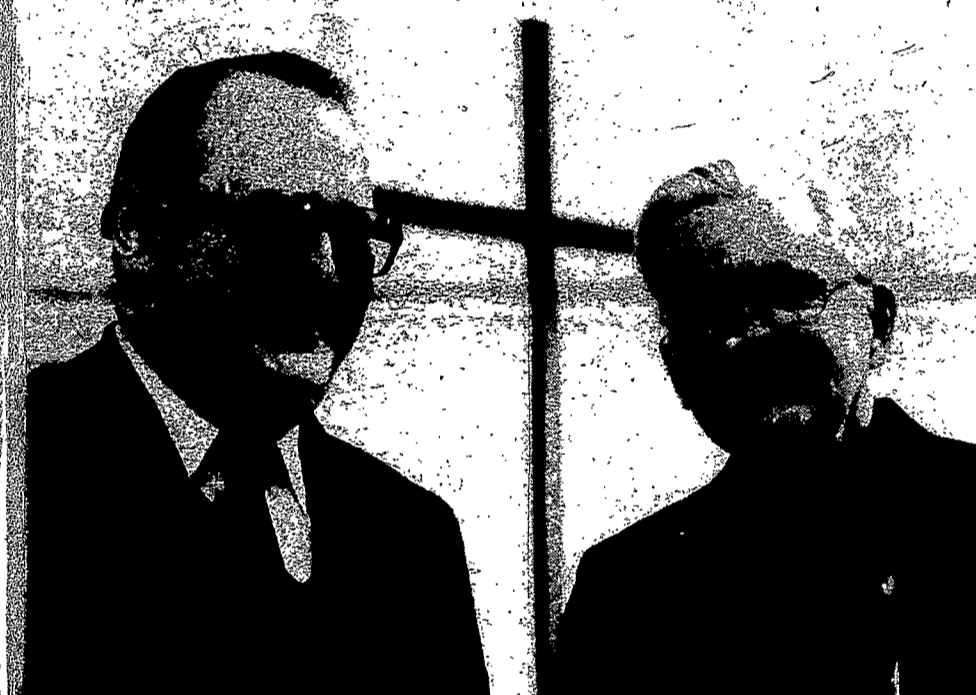
Lund commented, "We find that the current attempt by the Reagan administration to cover up what it's doing is reprehensible."

Day of Prayer Planned To Note Abortion Ruling

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Washington (RNS) — Cardinal Terence Cooke, chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, has asked Americans to join in a "National Day of Prayer and Fasting" on Jan. 22 for "the protection of the unborn child."

The day marks the ninth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down state laws



Rev. Barclay and Father Donovan. In between them is a cross that St. Mark's is planning to give to the Baptist congregation when it moves to its future site.

In Greece: 'A Very Christian Relationship'

By Terrance J. Brennan

Nearly four years ago, Rev. David Shirkey, pastor of the newly-formed Community Baptist Church, approached the Greece Pastors Association with a plea: He needed a meeting place for his 10 members of his

congregation as they could not afford their own building. "We have a very friendly, very Christian relationship."

The first to answer his call was Father Joseph Donovan, pastor of St. Mark's Church on Kyhn Road, who donated the use of the parish hall on Sunday and Thursday nights.

The relationship between the two congregations has since grown, but really blossomed with the arrival of Community's new pastor, Rev. William Barclay, in June 1980.

The two pastors hit it off immediately and the effect has certainly rubbed off on their respective groups.

"Our people have grown to admire Father Donovan so much," said Rev. Barclay, 51. "The relationship has been a very wholesome thing for us."

"They are like a sister parish to us here," added Father Donovan, 67, pastor at St. Mark's since 1964. "We

The two congregations even joined together last February for an interreligious service at St. Mark's along with the members of the Fountain Baptist Church from the city.

"Our people are no longer thinking of Baptist-Catholic labels," Rev. Barclay said. "This is a real step forward."

Recently, the members of Community Baptist Church voted to buy, move and renovate the old, abandoned Methodist church building on Maiden Lane — moving it to their property on Frisbee Hill Road near St. Mark's.

Father Donovan and his parishioners promptly took up an offering to help their friends in this move.

Because moving any building is an expensive

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Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Joyous Remembrance

Vicki White, left foreground, leads the Monroe Community College Gospel Singers at the 12th annual celebration of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. last Friday at Colgate Rochester Divinity School. More than 700 attended the event celebrated on the birthday of the late civil rights leader. More photos on page 7.