

COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Thursday, November 21, 1985

16 Pages 35 Cents



A Crying Shame

Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

From left to right, Mike Fina, Dave Webster, Captain Chuck Maloy and Ed Mangan console each other after their overtime, one-point loss to Fairport. For story and more photos, see Page 12.

Catholic relief services sends aid to victims of Colombian volcano

By Julio Barreto Jr.
NC News Service

New York-based Catholic Relief Services has committed \$50,000 to provide disaster relief for the victims of a Nov. 13 volcanic eruption in west-central Colombia.

CRS press spokeswoman Marina Gruenman said the eruption reportedly killed between 20,000 and 25,000 people. Another 70,000 were injured or affected by the disaster in some way, she said.

Ms. Gruenman said a preliminary CRS assessment reported a need for blankets, medicine and canned food.

She stressed that CRS was accepting only money at this time. Ms. Gruenman added that Terry Martin, director of CRS' Latin America region, was on his way to Colombia to make a more detailed assessment of the situation.

She said CRS will coordinate its relief efforts with the Catholic National Social Pastoral Secretariat in Colombia.

The eruption of the 16,200-foot Nevado del Ruiz volcano occurred 40 miles from Manizales, the coffee capital of Colombia, and seat of the Manizales Archdiocese.

The town of Armero, located about 30 miles from the volcano, was reported buried under ash and mud. Officials said they feared more than 15,000 of the town's 21,000 people were dead. A pilot flying over the town told a Colombian radio station "there is nothing left of Armero."

The town is about 80 miles north of Bogota.

Radio reports said several roads were cut as bridges were washed away, including a major highway between Manizales and Bogota, the Colombian capital.

Debris rumbled down the slopes of the volcano after the eruption occurred at about

9 p.m. Rivers burst their banks after the volcano's ice cap melted. It was Nevada del Ruiz's first major eruption in nearly four centuries.

The volcano had showed activity over the past few months but experts had ruled out a major eruption, which last happened in 1595. At least 28 bodies, some of them dismem-

bered, have been recovered in Chinchina, the second biggest town in the province of Caldas which borders the country's central mountain range.

Donations can be sent Colombia Volcano Relief Fund, P.O. Box 2045, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10008.

A geographic and historic perspective on Colombia

By NC News Service

Colombia, where up to 20,000 people died as a result of a Nov. 13 volcano, is a republic about the size of Texas and New Mexico combined.

The country is on the northwest corner of South America, bordered by Panama and the Caribbean Sea to the north, Ecuador and Peru to the south, Brazil and Venezuela to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Eastern Colombia has recently settled plains. Much of the Andes Mountains, the Cordilleras, run from north to south through western Colombia. The 16,200-foot Nevado del Ruiz volcano is in the Central Cordillera, about 45 miles northwest of the capital of Bogota. The volcano, whose name means "sacred peak of Ruiz," is the largest and generally the most

destructive in a line of six central range volcanoes. It is also the northernmost volcano in the Andes Mountains.

Colombia's chief crop is coffee, 50 percent of which it exports. The country also produces rice, tobacco, cotton, sugar and bananas.

It provides 50 percent of the world output of emeralds and also produces oil, gas, gold, copper and other minerals.

Mestizo, a mixed ethnic group, comprises about 38 percent of Colombia's population, followed by whites, mulattoes, blacks and a small percentage of Indians. Nearly 45 percent of the population is under age 14.

Catholics form about 95 percent of Colombia's total population of 27.5 million.

Evangelization of the area began in

1508. By the 1530s, Spain had subdued the local Indian kingdoms, and two dioceses were established. Spain ruled Colombia and neighboring countries as New Granada for 300 years. Colombia won independence in 1819.

Colombia's president is Belisario Betancur. The country, along with Venezuela, Panama and Mexico, is a member of the Contadora peace group, which is looking for peaceful solutions to conflicts in Latin America.

In Bogota Nov. 6, the country's best-known terrorist group, M-19, took over the five-story Palace of Justice. The Colombian army and paramilitary police responded, and by the time the siege ended more than 24 hours later, some 100 people had been killed, including almost half of the Supreme Court justices.

**Inside
this
edition:**

Series concludes

Our series on women religious in transition concludes with a look at the history of the Sisters of the Cenacle — Page 5

Frolicking follies

The Cardinal Mooney Follies pays tribute to various musical eras in "Gotta Sing Gotta Dance" — Page 6.

In a silent word

A small parish strives to communicate the word of God to those who cannot hear — Pages 8 and 9.