

Relief work including more danger

CRS official sees worsening plights

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — The former Soviet Union's breakup and the fall of communist governments in Eastern Europe has been greeted with celebration around the world.

But for relief agencies, those changes have produced effects — many of them tragic — far beyond those political, according to Father William Joy, director of church affairs for Catholic Relief Services, the United States Catholic Conference's official relief and development agency.

"The Soviets were the sugar daddies for a lot of groups," noted Father Joy, who spoke about CRS's efforts during a June 25 luncheon meeting at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road.

"Without the East/West dynamic, there's not the motivation for foreign aid," Father Joy continued.

As a result, conflicts — such as that in Somalia — have broken out throughout Africa. Indeed, the situation in Africa has grown so bad, Father Joy said, "We basically have fears that the continent is just slipping away."

In Eastern Europe, meanwhile, the collapse of socialist governments has left people without the knowledge and infrastructure to create social service programs. And the former Yugoslavia's breakup has led to a bloodbath.

The world situation is getting worse, Father Joy said.

"In 1980, three million (people) were classified as refugees (by the United Nations)," Father Joy observed. Today, he said, that figure is estimated at 20 million people, "not including the former Yugoslavia."

CRS is just one agency attempting to respond to this growing need for relief and development efforts. In 1992 alone, CRS distributed more than \$300 million in aid. The agency, which is celebrating its 50th year, is currently operating in 77 nations in Asia, Africa, South American and Europe.

Father Joy visited Rochester to help promote awareness that the local and national church are supporting relief



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Father William Joy, director of church affairs for Catholic Relief Services, recently visited and assisted with the agency's relief efforts in Somalia.



Fr. William Joy
Children line up awaiting food in a village outside of Baldoa, Somalia. In addition to providing necessary goods, CRS aids the poor in becoming self-sufficient.

efforts around the world, noted Judy Taylor, diocesan coordinator for CRS.

"When people say, 'When are we going to help the people of Bosnia?,' we are," Taylor said. "We have an agency that's there doing things."

Taylor noted that the Rochester diocese is becoming more active in CRS through such initiatives as Operation Rice Bowl, a Lenten giving program

providing funding for CRS development efforts.

As part of its efforts, the diocese will be providing more information about CRS to local Catholics, Taylor continued. Father Joy's visit was part of that process.

Ironically, CRS was created under the name War Relief Services in 1943 just to help refugees displaced by World War II.

But just as the need for relief services continued after the war, so did the agency.

Father Joy pointed out that the agency will enter a problem area at the local church's invitation and with the host government's approval to help provide immediate relief during times of famine or war, or following such natural disasters as floods, earthquakes and hurricanes.

But, Father Joy added, the bulk of CRS's efforts is spent on development projects. Those development efforts include water and reforestation projects; training social service workers; introducing new farming techniques; teaching sewing skills; and fostering schools.

In the process, CRS workers often find themselves in hostile situations — such as Somalia. In fact, recent tensions there have forced CRS workers to remain at their base in Baldoa out of safety concerns, reported Father Joy, who visited the African nation in December 1992.

The situation in Somalia is one of chaos, with rival warlords controlling the streets. Those warlords are testing the United Nation's willingness to respond, the priest noted. That testing included an attack on June 5 that left 24 Pakistani members of the U.N. peacekeeping force dead, prompting retaliatory air and ground attacks two weeks later by U.S. and U.N. forces.

Father Joy described the retaliation as "heavy-handed," but avoided overt criticism. He predicted that the warlords will continue to test forces in the months ahead, noting, "It's part of a process that's going to go on for a while."

CRS workers in Somalia and other nations have to walk a fine line, Father Joy commented.

"Our government may have its own agenda, the host government may have its own agenda, and you have to be able to weave through that mine field," Father Joy.

That the agency has been successful in weaving through such mine fields is illustrated when governments continue to ask CRS for aid, Father Joy noted.

"For development, you've got to be there for the long haul," Father Joy said. "In civil wars, the poor on both sides are going to suffer."

Administrator retiring after lengthy tenure

WAYLAND

— While many other women religious change locales every few years, Sister Marie Stanislaus Chwalek, SSJ, has been much more of a homebody.



For the past 28 years, Sister Chwalek's turf has comprised only two schools — the former St. Casimir's in Elmira and then St. Joseph's in Wayland.

Last week marked the end of Sister Chwalek's 16-year stint as principal of St. Joseph's, 209 Fremont St. Well-wishers acknowledged her retirement with a reception and liturgy on Saturday, June 26.

As she ends her official duty at the pre-K-through-grade 6 school, Sister Chwalek said she will be blessed with many pleasant memories of the close relationships she developed with St. Joseph's students.

"It's interesting how the children respond very affectionately," observed Sister Chwalek. "It's nothing at dismissal time for them to come up and give me a hug, especially the younger ones."

Prior to her arrival at St. Joseph's, Sister Chwalek served 12 years at St. Casimir's, 1010 Davis St. — now known as Holy Family Junior High School.

Since she will continue living at the Wayland parish's convent, Sister Chwalek expects to keep in touch with St. Joseph School's students. She also plans on assisting in other capacities at the parish.

"I'll try to be of service whenever I can," she said.

Succeeding Sister Chwalek as St. Joseph's principal is Jo Ann Struck, who comes from another institution located within the Rochester diocese's Genesee Valley Cluster. Struck has spent the past five years as a teacher at St. Mary's School, 43 Elizabeth St., Dansville.

— Mike Latona

Family Camp coming up

ITALY VALLEY — Registration is now open for the 1993 Family Camps at Kamp Koinonia.

Three one-week programs will be offered at the 300-acre facility in Yates County. Dates are July 18-24, July 25-31 and Aug. 1-7.

Family Camp offer families the opportunity to combine summer vacation with spiritual growth. The program is sponsored by the Diocese of Rochester.

Call Sue or Rich Versluys at 716/352-6826 for information.

Bible instructors sought

APALACHIN — Volunteers are needed for a summer Vacation Bible School at St. Margaret Mary Church, 1110 Pennsylvania Ave.

Classes will run from July 12-16. Teacher and assistants are both needed to volunteer.

Those interested may call Marie Oberst at 607/625-4910 or Margo Bills at 625-2859.

HIDDEN MEADOWS

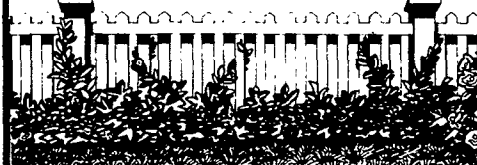
COMMUNITY

HIDDEN MEADOWS is a community designed for easy-living as you look forward to retirement. Located away from the crowds, Hidden Meadows is nestled in a quiet country setting. People here are young at heart and enjoy the conveniences and location opportunities that Hidden Meadows offers.

This community affords the pleasure of comfortable living on wooded private roads. Conveniences such as lawn care, a club house for community activities and the security of living in a community with individuals of your own age.

OPEN FOR INSPECTION
SUNDAYS 1:00-4:00PM. OR
SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT
CALL: 494-1424

7289 LAKE RD. BERGEN, NY 14416
1 Mile South of Rt. 33 & 19



HIDDEN MEADOWS...
It's where your friends are!

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)

Vol. 104 No. 39 July 1, 1993

Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.

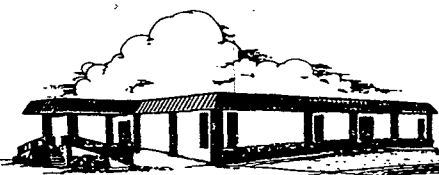
Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$19.50; Canada and foreign \$19.50 plus postage.

Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340.

Second-class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

BARTOLOMEO FUNERAL HOME, INC.



Peter W. Giuliani, Jr. Philip P. Perotto Michael P. Perotto

Personalized service in the community since 1922.

1425 Lexington Avenue Rochester, NY 14606

conveniently located near 390

(715) 254-5400