

# Work crew brings relief to flood victims in Iowa

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

SENECA FALLS — The Diocese of Rochester has sent more than \$65,000 to aid victims of the floods that ravaged the Midwest this summer.

On top of that financial aid, one Midwestern parish also received 25,000 pounds of clothing and some hands-on assistance.

Six people from St. Patrick's Parish in Seneca Falls and one person from St. Bridget/St. Joseph's Parish in East Bloomfield traveled by van to St. Mary's Parish in Fort Madison, Iowa, Oct. 23-31 to help with cleanup and repairs.

The Seneca Falls parish also collected and sent out 25,000 pounds of winter clothing.

The money from the diocese was collected from individuals and parishes, and sent to Catholic Charities USA for distribution in the flooded areas, according to Judy Taylor, who is coordinating the effort for diocesan Social Ministry.

Taylor reported that as of Nov. 8, more than 610 donors had contributed \$65,616.11 to flood-relief efforts.

The Seneca Falls trip was organized after St. Patrick's pastor, Father David

Gramkee, suggested the idea at Masses one Sunday.

Evelyn Gaun, one of the people who went, said the priest had actually gotten the idea while the two watched a news report together about the floods.

"I said, 'I wish we could do something to help,'" Gaun reported. "He said, 'Maybe we could get a group of people to go.' So I said, 'I'll go.'"

In response to Father Gramkee's suggestion at the Masses, five other people in the parish agreed to go along with Gaun: Father Mitchell Zygodlo, the parish's parochial vicar; John Bell, a seminarian serving his pastoral internship year at the parish; and parishioners Mary Parker, Beverly Farney and Bill Leonard.

The contingent from St. Patrick's was joined by Emily Rayburn, a parishioner at St. Bridget's and a student at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester.

At the Iowa parish, the group stayed in the homes of parishioners and took their meals at the church. They spent the time there working on one house.

The house, while not caught in the floods, was damaged by the heavy rains that helped lead to the floods. Meanwhile, the owner of the house had lost his job as a result of the

# Author visits Rochester



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Author Mary Glazener (left) signs a copy of her first novel, *The Cup of Wrath: The Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Resistance to Hitler*, for Catherine Norr at Borders Book Shop Nov. 6. The novel comprises stories detailing the church's struggle to survive during the Third Reich.

floods, and was unable to keep up with bills.

The crew repaired the roof, stripped and painted walls, renovated a damaged bathroom, and cleared damaged items and debris out of the house and the basement — which had filled with water from the rain.

Although 75 — and well aware of how much work they would have to do — Gaun said she did not hesitate to go.

"I've been in four floods," Gaun explained, "so I know what it's like. I knew what they were in for. You don't know what way to turn when this happens."

Farney said when the trip was announced, she felt prompted to go.

"I just saw a need," reported Farney, who took a week off from work to join the effort. "I felt I could go and do something."

As part of the trip, the group also viewed some of the flood-damaged areas.

Father Zygodlo noted that fields located more than five miles from the Mississippi River were still flooded. He also reported that many people — including the man whose home they helped repair — were out of work because businesses and factories had been destroyed or heavily damaged by flood waters.

During the time in Iowa, the group prayed together and celebrated daily Mass, Farney reported. They developed a sense of community, she said.

"We just became a real strong family working together," Farney observed. "I think it was a ministry in itself among the people who went together."

Meg Byrne, assistant director of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, had helped set up contacts between St. Patrick's and St. Mary's. She said she has been in contact with the pastor of the Iowa parish since the crew had returned to the Rochester diocese.

The pastor, Father Robert T. McAleer, said that his people were extremely grateful for what the Rochester people had done, but that the need for money and winter clothing continues in his area, Byrne reported.

Gaun, for one, said she was grateful for the opportunity to help.

"If you could ever see the look on the people's faces when we came out — my heart aches for them," Gaun said. "It made me realize what I have. No matter how much or how little — you could lose it."

EDITORS' NOTE: Contributions for flood relief may be sent to Judy Taylor, Diocesan Social Ministry, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-3210.

# Father Thomas Paul Murley at 73

BRIGHTON — Father Thomas Paul Murley, former pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Victor, died on Nov. 4 at the Sisters of Mercy Lourdes Hall Infirmary following a long illness. He was 73.

Father Murley was born to Patrick and Margaret Hartnett Murley in Auburn. His family moved to Rochester's Immaculate Conception Parish and then to Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish in 1927. He attended both parishes' schools and graduated from Aquinas Institute in 1938.

He attended St. Andrew and St. Bernard seminaries and received a master of arts degree in education from Canisius College, Buffalo.

Father Murley was ordained in September, 1945, and had three brief assignments at the following parishes where he assisted in place of priests in military service: St. Mary's, Elmira, for three months in 1945; St. Vincent's, Corning, from 1945-46; and St. Ann's, Hornell, from 1946-47.

## Obituary

Father Murley taught mathematics at St. Andrew's Seminary from 1947-68. In 1968 he was named pastor at St. Theresa's in Stanley, where he served from 1968 to 71.

He was named pastor at St. Patrick's, Victor, in June, 1971, and served there until June, 1990. He retired to St. Thomas the Apostle Rectory from September, 1990, to April, 1992, when he became ill and took up residence at the infirmary.

Father Murley is survived by four nephews: John and James Cannon of Fairport; Daniel Cannon of Rochester; Timothy Cannon of Honeyoye Falls; one niece, Kathleen Murley of Auburn; a cousin, Ted Murley of Auburn; and several grandnieces and grandnephews.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at the Mercy Motherhouse on Monday, Nov. 7. Interment took place at Holy Sepulchre.

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