



Reuters/CNS

A rescue worker pulls a mother and two children from flood waters in the Mozambique city of Chokwe Feb. 28.

## Floods destroy much of Mozambique

LONDON (CNS) - Ten years' worth of development was washed away in minutes by the floods and cyclones in Mozambique, said a spokesman for the English and Welsh bishops' aid agency.

In one project helped by the agency, the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, a project set up to help female heads of households had losses of nearly \$900,000.

"Many of the women being helped were women who had been widowed by the war," said CAFOD spokeswoman Fiona Fox.

"This project had been helping them get back on their feet, and now it has been destroyed. It is absolutely tragic," she said.

Carla Ferreira, CAFOD's program assistant for Mozambique, said the country was devastated by the disaster.

"Although Mozambique is a success story at a macro-economic level, it's still one of the poorest countries in the world," she said. "Ninety percent of the population are living below the poverty line of less than one dollar a day, and a staggering 65 percent of those people struggle to survive on half that."

"If this cyclone and floods had hit Britain or any other developed nation, the infrastructure would have survived, and recovery would be much quicker," she continued.

"But in a poor country like Mozambique where most people work on the land, it is a disaster. Our partners are devastated - after years of progress they are back to square one."

CAFOD warned that the situation around Maputo would get worse as an-

other cyclone and high river levels in neighboring countries threatened to exacerbate the flooding. The agency estimated Mozambicans would need massive relief aid for at least the next year, since this year's crop has been destroyed. More than 300,000 people lost their homes in the flooding.

CAFOD has pledged an initial grant of \$30,000 for the work of Caritas, the national Catholic relief organization. The money will go to meeting immediate needs for food and long-term rehabilitation in housing and sanitation.

The agency is also preparing to send out emergency staff to support partners' efforts to respond to the crisis.

Fox, spokeswoman for CAFOD, told Catholic News Service that people had been very generous in their response.



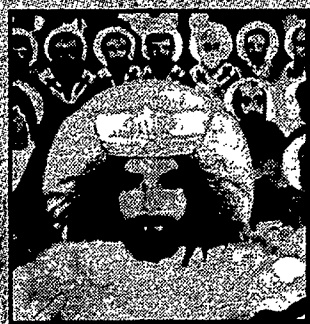
# Catholic Courier

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### Inside This Week

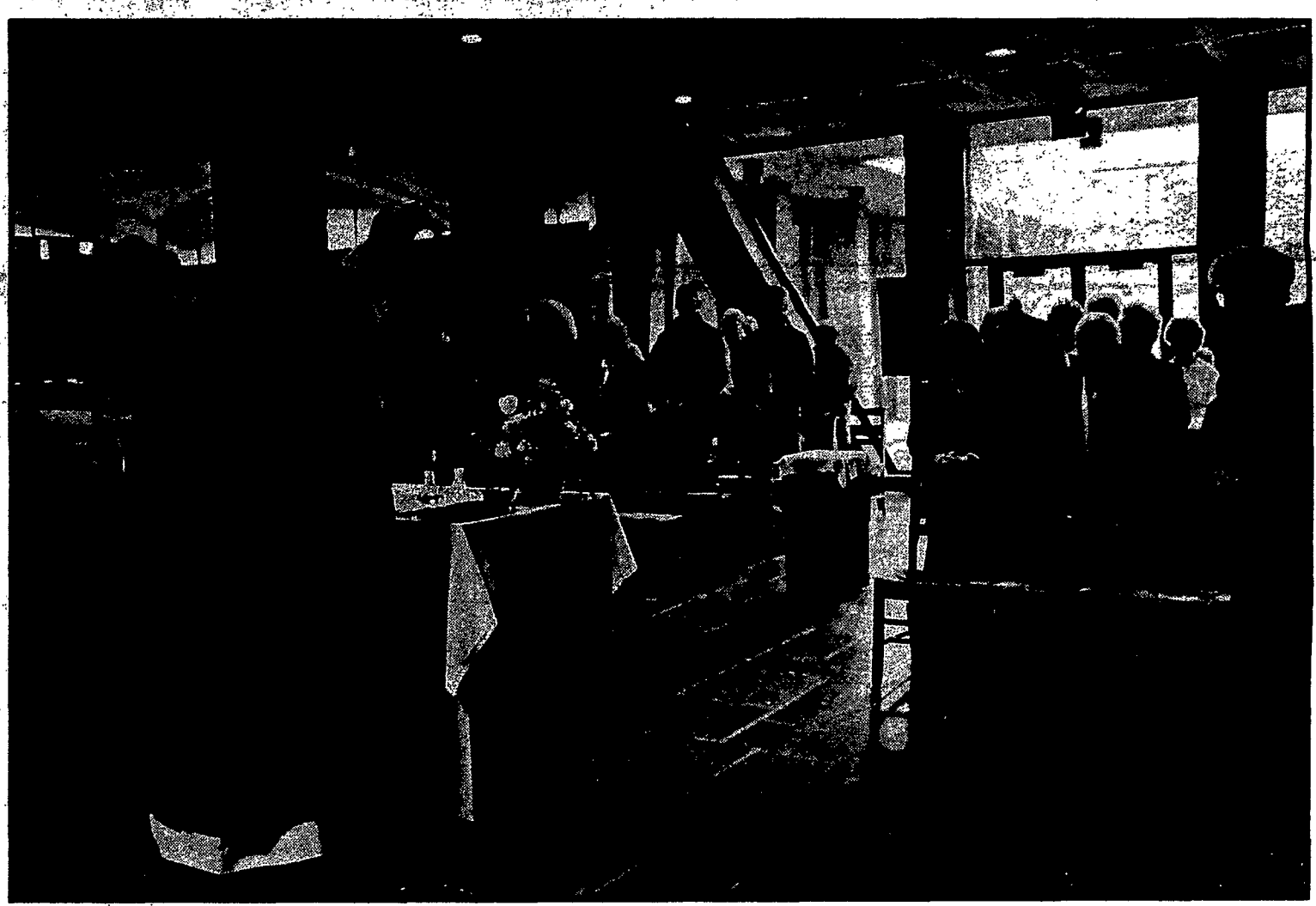


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Father Charles Manning says a blessing during the consecration of the bread and wine at morning Mass on Feb. 24 at Holy Name of Jesus Church, Greece.

## Daily Mass diminishes

**EDITORS' NOTE:** This is the third installment in a series on the effects of a declining number of priests and related vocations issues.

For more than 50 years, Mary Gilardo has faithfully attended daily Mass at St. Michael's Church in Newark.

That practice was interrupted recently - but not from lack of desire on Gilardo's part. There was no priest available to preside.

St. Michael's pastor, Father Peter Clifford, was to be on vacation from Feb. 21 to March 3, and the parochial vicar, Father Peter DeBellis, was studying in Mexico until April. With no substitute priest on hand, Father Clifford suspended daily Mass until he returned from vacation. In place of Mass, parish staff members were to lead prayer and Scripture services.

"It will be new for us, but unavoidable," Father Clifford stated in a Feb. 6 bulletin notice announcing the impending changes.

This is the first time Gilardo could recall that daily Mass was ever canceled - even temporarily.



"We are being left without a shepherd," she said. "It's very upsetting. It's threatening," added Jean Surber, who has attended daily Mass at St. Michael's for about 25 years.

Father Clifford acknowledged to the *Catholic Courier* that even for a two-week period, "It's a great loss, there's no way around it. Priests feel the same frustration the people feel."

St. Michael's offers a 6:45 a.m. Mass on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with a 5:15 p.m. Mass on Tuesdays and Fridays. And yet, Father Clifford noted, only a few years ago St. Michael's had three daily Masses. But the parish also had three resident priests - a pastor, a parochial vicar and Father Joseph M. McDonnell, pastor emeritus, who moved to McAuley Residence in Brighton last year.

Father Clifford added that more Mass schedule reductions are likely beginning this summer, when Father DeBellis is expected

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STORY BY MIKE LATONA • PHOTOS BY ANDREA DIXON