

# WORLD & NATION

## Tornado tears through Texas diocese

FORT WORTH, Texas (CNS) - The chancellor of the Fort Worth Diocese has asked Catholics to pray for the victims of tornadoes that swept through downtown Fort Worth and nearby Arlington March 28.

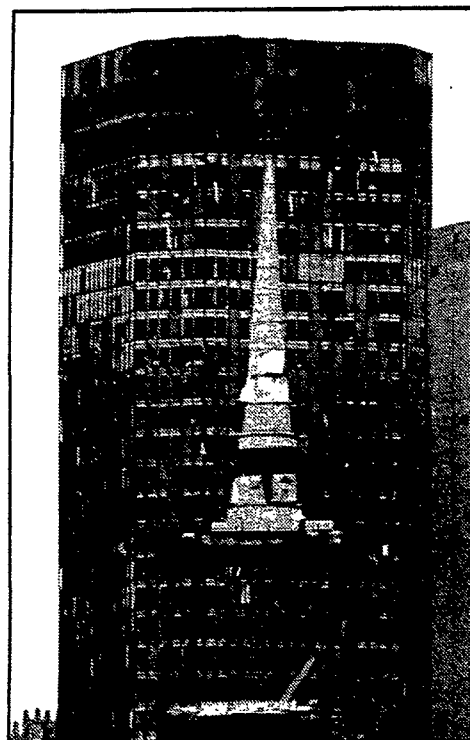
Father Robert Wilson also requested the diocese's 87 parishes and missions take up a special collection at Masses April 8-9 for relief efforts.

A statement from the diocese said the priest issued the requests in the absence of Fort Worth Bishop Joseph P. Delaney, who was in the Diocese of Juticalpa, Honduras.

"Ironically," it said, the bishop was there "with a group of priests and lay people exploring the mission efforts the diocese is extending to the people of Olancho province, partially in response to 1998's devastating storms generated by Hurricane Mitch."

Two tornadoes struck Fort Worth the evening of March 28, killing four people, injuring 100 others and leaving many others homeless. The storms caused an estimated \$450 million in damage.

One tornado cut a blocks-wide swath as it ripped through the downtown area of Fort Worth, a city of 480,000. Streets were littered with debris, and battered buildings,



Reuters/CNS

**A church steeple and a skyscraper show the damage caused by a tornado that smashed into downtown Fort Worth, Texas, March 28.**

demolished automobiles and downed trees marked the path of the twister.

The roof of one church fell in and the steeple of another was stripped down to show gnarled steel girders.

The second tornado destroyed more than 100 homes and damaged 1,000 others in Arlington and Grand Prairie.

The diocesan statement said the money collected during Masses would be used by Fort Worth Catholic Charities, along with grants from Catholic Charities USA and other emergency relief.

At the request of San Antonio Archbishop Patrick Flores, the board of directors of the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Foundation in Corpus Christi has given a \$20,000 grant to the diocesan Catholic Charities office. The archbishop made the request as a foundation board member.

Karen Spicer, executive director of Catholic Charities in Fort Worth, said the agency's main need was not for food or clothing but for cash to relocate families.

**EDITORS' NOTE:** Donations to Catholic Charities can be sent directly to the Diocese of Fort Worth, Finance Department, 800 W. Loop 820 S., Fort Worth, TX 76108. (Designate for Tarrant County Tornado Relief.)

### Philip Berrigan given 30-month sentence

TOWSON, Md. (CNS) - Philip Berrigan, a 76-year-old former Josephite priest and longtime activist, was sentenced to 30 months in jail March 23 for malicious destruction of property in connection with a protest last December at the Warfield Air National Guard base in Middle River, Md.

Berrigan and three others, who called themselves the Plowshares vs. Depleted Uranium, hammered and poured blood on two A-10 Warthog aircraft at the base because the Warthog has a Gatling gun which fires depleted uranium. Each of the four also was convicted of conspiracy to maliciously destroy property.

### Oakland service offers apology for sex abuse

OAKLAND, Calif. (CNS) - Pain, anger, and healing surged through an Oakland gathering as Bishop John S. Cummins and other leaders of the Oakland Diocese publicly apologized to victims of clergy sexual abuse.

More than 130 people, including survivors, their families and friends, attended the March 25 service. To the men and women who were sexually abused by priests when they were children, teenagers or adults, Bishop Cummins said, "For our lack of facing the truth regarding abuse by clergy and others, for our tendency to retreat into denial and self-protection in the face of such abuse, for our response of fear and avoidance rather than of care for the survivors of clergy sexual abuse, we ask pardon and forgiveness."

### Vatican installs metal detectors at St. Peter's

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Significantly raising its security profile ahead of the arrival of Easter Week pilgrims, the Vatican installed airport-style metal detectors and X-ray machines around St. Peter's Square.

The new security measures were expected to be operational as soon as technicians finished testing the equipment, said Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman. No specific threat had prompted the changes.

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