



Reuters/CNS

A cathedral bell tower in Arequipa, Peru, sits atop crumbling masonry following an earthquake June 23.

Relief services aiding Peruvians

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services has released an initial \$50,000 to help earthquake victims in Peru.

The June 23 quake killed at least 70 people and injured more than 1,200, according to Peruvian civil defense officials.

The 8.1 magnitude quake hit areas in southern Peru, from its Pacific coast to inland zones high in the Andes Mountains.

CRS, the U.S. bishops' relief and development agency, said at least 60,000 homes were destroyed, many in difficult-to-reach areas.

"The number of deaths and casualties is expected to rise when contact with these areas is re-established," said a June 24 CRS statement.

"CRS partners report that many of the affected areas have no power or water, limited telephone contact and extensive road

damage," it said.

Compounding the problems for survivors is the cold, windy, high-altitude weather in the Andes.

News reports from Peru said many of the deaths occurred in the colonial city of Arequipa, almost 8,000 feet above sea level and 630 miles south of the capital of Lima. One of the buildings damaged was the 400-year-old cathedral.

The Andean city of Moquegua, 860 miles south of Lima, also was heavily hit.

Red Cross officials along the Pacific coast reported that a tidal wave caused by the quake claimed lives and homes.

The Peruvian government declared a state of emergency in the damaged area June 24. President-elect Alejandro Toledo visited Arequipa and other damaged towns June 24 before leaving for a previously

scheduled visit to the United States.

Toledo said he would ask for international assistance during his U.S. tour.

Peru sits on a major earthquake belt and has had devastating quakes before. The worst in terms of deaths and damage occurred in 1970, when 70,000 people died and more than 600,000 were left homeless in the South American country. Although the epicenter of the 1970 quake was in the Pacific Ocean, in the Andes it triggered a massive avalanche that claimed most of the lives and swept away numerous villages and towns.

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EDITORS' NOTE: CRS is accepting donations to help quake victims. Checks should be marked "Peru earthquake" and mailed to: Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090.



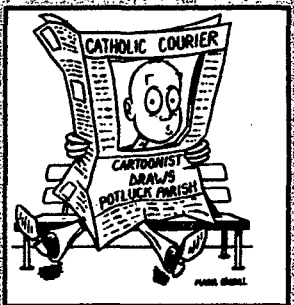
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Reuters/CNS

The pope of Ukraine surround Pope John Paul II and President Leonid Kuchma at the Kiev airport upon the pope's arrival June 23. The pope was beginning a five-day visit to the primarily Orthodox country.

Papal trip honors Catholics, others

KIEV, Ukraine (CNS) — With respect for Ukraine's Orthodox majority and tributes to the nation's people who endured decades of war and repression, Pope John Paul II began his June 23-27 trip to the East European nation.

The 81-year-old pope assured the Orthodox he did not want to steal their faithful, but to overcome animosity and move forward together to transform the society.

"I have not come here with the intention of proselytizing, but to bear witness to Christ together with all Christians," the pope said in his arrival speech.

The pope congratulated Ukrainians on the 10 years of independence they will celebrate in August, an independence won from the Soviet Union without bloodshed.

But it was the tension between Catholics and Orthodox that captured newspaper headlines before the papal visit and were the subject of Pope John Paul's strongest words.

The pope said Catholics and Orthodox have hurt each other at various times throughout Ukraine's history.

"Bowing down before our one Lord, we recognize our faults," he said at the arrival ceremony. "As we ask forgiveness for the errors committed in both the distant and recent past, let us in turn offer forgiveness for the wrongs endured."

Members of Ukraine's largest Orthodox Church, and the Russian Orthodox Church to which it is allied, objected to the pope's visit and refused to participate in his June 24 meeting with leaders of Ukraine's churches and religious communities.

They claimed the Catholic Church was trying to steal believers and that Catholics had used violence to take over thousands of



Reuters/CNS

Ukrainians pray June 25 during the Byzantine-rite Divine Liturgy with Pope John Paul II at an airfield in Kiev June 25.

church buildings in Western Ukraine, many of which were confiscated from Catholics under Soviet rule.

Ukrainian Catholic and Vatican officials have said the charges regarding violent takeovers are not true.

Presiding over a Divine Liturgy June 25 at Chayka airport, the **Continued on page 10**