

Zeno Urges Help For Hokkaido Victims

A 73-year-old Catholic missionary is contributing his share toward the relief of Hokkaido farmers who are victims of an unseasonal cold weather causing widespread crop failure on the northernmost main Japanese island.

Brother Zeno Zebrowski of the Franciscan Order has joined others in appealing to the general public for cash or material donations to the unfortunate Hokkaido farmers.

The unseasonal cold weather hit Hokkaido late last summer and early autumn.

Brother Zebrowski has told The Yomiuri that according to the Japanese Red Cross Society the total crop failure in Hokkaido amounted to ¥57,300 million, a record for the island.

Damaged were such crops as rice, beans, and potatoes and feed for livestock.

Brother Zebrowski said of the 210,000 or so farming families in Hokkaido, 150,000 have been affected by the crop failure and of the latter, about 53,000 are in dire need for food and clothing.



Brother Zebrowski said cash contributions should be sent to the Hokkaido office of the Japanese Red Cross Society at Kita-Ichijo, Sapporo, Hokkaido.

In Tokyo, Brother Zebrowski said, the Franciscan Abbey at 2100, Kumeikawacho, Higashi-Murayama, (Tel: 0423-9-2074) also accepts contributions and donations.

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Colons Volunteer To Adopt Hokkaido Farmer's Daughters

William Colon, a civilian with the U.S. Forces in Japan, and his wife volunteered Tuesday to be foster parents for the two small daughters of a poor Hokkaido farmer who this month started serving a three-year prison sentence.

The Colons made their offer after learning of a nationwide search for foster parents, launched through The Mainichi Daily News by Brother Zeno Zebrowski, a noted Polish missionary in Tokyo and director of the Franciscan Mission's Welfare for Orphans and the Poor.

Colon, who is working in the Far East Communications office in Fuchu Station, said he and his wife would take care of the two young girls until their father, Tetsuo Mori, 32, a widower, is released from jail.

Mori, a member of the Lutheran Church, was sentenced to three years in prison August 25 for having caused the death of his eldest son last winter.

After receiving the offer, Brother Zebrowski immediately advised Colon to contact directly the grandfather of the two girls in Hokkaido.

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Blankets Donated

One hundred blankets and sheets, worth about ¥100,000 Tuesday were presented to 19 social welfare homes for mothers and children in Tokyo through arrangement by Conventual Franciscan Brother Zeno Zebrowski. It was announced by the Tokyo Metropolitan Public Welfare Bureau.