

Boundless Love – a screen story on Polish Brother, Zeno

San Francisco, CA – During the 1995 Hanshin Earthquake, which devastated Kobe, Japan, and its environs, volunteers from all over the country rushed to its rescue and thus revived the volunteer spirit. Because of it, the mass media termed 1995 as the first year of the Volunteer Era.

However, there was a person who was the forerunner of this movement at a time when the word volunteer had not even existed in the Japanese vocabulary. He was

At the end of the Second World War, there were also hordes of orphans scattered all over the country. Beginning with the rescue of these war orphans, Zeno San went to the afflicted areas throughout the country, helping the people in abject poverty. He also comforted the victims of discrimination such as the inhabitants of the Bataya villages, who made their precarious living by sustaining themselves on scraps from the city dumps.

Among the welfare institutions he founded are "Zeno Shohen Bokujo" in Hiroshima, "Mominoki Gakuen" in Kobe, and "Akitsu Ryoiku En" – an institution for seriously disabled children in Tokyo. Brother Zeno also arranged for the building of a place of worship called "Arino Machi" and the establishment of a Sunday school at Asakusa Honganji Temple in Tokyo.

For his lifetime of work and his aid to the Japanese Red Cross in flood and earthquake relief, Brother Zeno received many accolades and expressions of gratitude from the government and the people of Ja-

sions of gratitude from the government and the people of Ja-



tion of whatever amount you can spare as a donation towards the making of the film about "Zeno San." With the generous contributions entrusted to us in good faith, they shall complete the production of the film. And with the profit they gain from the screening, they will set up the Love Zeno Fund and give support for volunteer activities.

The second request is that after the film is completed, the committee would like your kind assistance in screening it. They would appreciate it greatly if you could introduce and advertise the film to the private film groups, individuals, schools, and organizations. Through them, they hope that the message of Brother Zeno can be widely spread.

For concrete information regarding the finances and screening programs, kindly contact the address given below.

For concrete information regarding the finances and screening programs, kindly contact the address given below:



Brother Zeno feeding the birds (cartoon from the movie).

a Polish-born catholic priest, Brother Zeno Zebrowski, whom the Japanese affectionately called "Zeno San." At the present time, the Fuji Welfare Foundation is in the process of making an animated feature depicting his life and work and is sending out an appeal for your cooperation and assistance to help bring about this tribute to such an extraordinary individual.

Zeno Zebrowski was born in Lomza, Poland in 1891. He enrolled in the Conventual Franciscan order at the age of 33, where he met Father Kolbe, the famous World War II concentration camp martyr. In 1930, both he and Kolbe traveled to Japan, where they studied and worked for six years. After Kolbe returned to Poland, Brother Zeno continued his work among the poor.

In 1946, Brother Zeno established "Seibo no Kishi En," an institution for over 10,000 victims of the A-bomb dropped on Nagasaki. He endlessly sought donations of money and building materials for housing for the suffering and homeless A-bomb survivors and supported the construction of seven barracks for the homeless in Kumamoto, three barracks in Moji City, and one in Sasebo City. The Brother Zeno community relief housing projects throughout Japan soon became known as "Bataya Villages."



Brother Zeno in devastated Nagasaki by the A-bomb.



Brother Zeno takes care of the Japanese orphans after the WWII.

pan. In addition, he received benediction from Pope Paul II at the Tokyo Catholic Center in Japan on February 23rd, 1982. After 52 years of devoting his life to helping poor children and adults in Japan, both before and after World War II, he passed away on April 24th, 1982.

In the affluent society of present day Japan, people may be materially rich, but they certainly are becoming spiritually destitute. Now that half a century has passed since "Zeno San" began to live among us, it is impossible to relive that past. However in order to introduce Brother Zeno to the young generation who never had a chance to know him and be familiar with his noble work, the Zeno Film Making Committee will have to resort to animation in order to appeal to the young. After completion of the film in Japanese, it will also be dubbed in English, Polish, and other languages so that it could reach as many people as possible in the world and thus contribute towards the achievement of peace throughout the world.

Consequently, the film committee has two requests. One is for raising funds for the production of the film. In order to produce an animation script lasting 30 seconds, about 200 picture frames are needed. For the length of a one-hour film, which includes over 24,000 frames, 1.25 million dollars is required to cover production costs. Therefore, they would like to ask for your kind contribu-



Legendary Brother Zeno (Zeno Zebrowski) at the audience with the Holy Father, John Paul II in Rome, in 1982.