

THE CYCLONE IN MYANMAR

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is supporting the emergency relief and response efforts of the Caritas Internationalis network in the most affected areas of Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis struck on May 3.

The latest reports of some 100,000 dead and 1 million homeless demonstrate dire conditions in which basic food, shelter and water are urgently needed.

Significant support is critical to ensure life-saving assistance reaches the most vulnerable people quickly. The Caritas network will coordinate with local and international agencies to determine how best to provide help where it is most needed.

HOW TO HELP

Send a donation via check to:

**Catholic Relief Services
P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, MD 21203-7090**

**Memo line:
Southeast Asia Natural Disaster
Call 1-877-HELP-CRS**

or

**Make a secure donation online at:
www.crs.org**

THE BLESSED TRINITY

How often have we made the sign of the cross, invoking without really adverting to it, the name of the triune God? In its original meaning the sign of the Cross was, each time it was made, a renewal of our baptism, a repetition of the words by which we became Christians, and an assimilation into our personal life of what was given us in baptism without our cooperation or reflection. Water was poured over us and, at the same time, the words were spoken: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The Church makes us Christians by calling on the name of the Trinitarian God. From her beginning, she has expressed in this way what she regards as the truly definitive mark of our Christianity: *faith in the triune God*. We find that disappointing. It seems so remote from our life. It seems so useless and so hard to understand. If there must be short formulas for expressing the tenets of our faith, then they should at least be attractive, exciting, something whose importance for men and for our lives is immediately apparent. Yet, in the last analysis, this is what we are saying here: *Christianity is not primarily concerned with the Church or with men, but with God*. Its proper orientation is not to our hopes, our fears, or our wishes, but to God, to his majesty and his power. *The first article of Christian faith, the basic orientation of Christian conversion, is that God exists*. We must, therefore, learn again to understand from God's perspective what being a Christian really means - that is, believing that he is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If he is that in himself, he must be I and You and so he must be one God in three Persons.

- POPE BENEDICT XVI

His Holiness Benedict XVI was elected to the See of Saint Peter in 2005.