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Floods continue at Pearl River

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Hundreds of Louisiana residents near the Mississippi border braced themselves Saturday for a Pearl River flooding expected to reach "levels never before recorded" on Sunday as damage in the South approached \$300 million.

Elsewhere in the flood-stricken South, waters receded and sunny skies returned. Louisiana's trouble spot was the Pearl River along the Mississippi state line. The river, which was expected to crest Sunday, steadily rose Saturday and spread over its banks.

"This is an extremely serious situation as water levels will reach levels never before recorded," said the National Weather Service in Slidell, La. "The entire area east of Interstates 10 and 59 will be threatened by major flooding."

Eleven deaths were recorded during three days of flash flooding that stretched from near St. Louis, Mo., to the Gulf of Mexico. Six people died in Mississippi, three in Louisiana and two in Tennessee.

Damage estimates across the South neared \$300 million Saturday. Louisiana officials estimated damage at \$50 million in the Baton Rouge area and \$50 to \$100 million in New Orleans. Dozens of other hard-hit areas had not yet assessed damage.

Officials said it was impossible to determine how many people had been evacuated, but scattered estimates from Louisiana

and Mississippi — the states with the most widespread flooding — exceeded 30,000.

The Red Cross said 90,000 families in Louisiana had been affected by flooding, either losing their homes or suffering water damage.

In Mississippi, 2,500 homes were damaged or destroyed statewide, and more than 10,000 people were evacuated. Towns like Foxworth and Hattiesburg were inundated, and Columbia became an island fortified by sandbags.

Hattiesburg alone reported \$108 million in damage. Estimates from other flood-ravaged areas in Mississippi still are being compiled.

Weather forecasters Saturday said no rain was expected until next week. Rains that began Wednesday were so excessive — more than a foot in Louisiana and 17 inches in Mississippi — that rivers crested at record levels.

Alabama Civil Defense officials said there was a possibility that six or seven families in low-lying areas around Selma would have to leave their Dallas County homes Saturday because of rising waters of the Alabama River. Storms that hit Alabama during the week forced about 100 people out of their homes.

In Missouri, a spokesman for the St. Charles County sheriff's office said about 80 percent of the town of West Alton was under about 2 feet of water Saturday. The 500 residents were advised to leave, but 200 stayed.



staff photo by G
Last but not least

Joanne Morphey, 49, finally rolls up to finish line after 4 hours and 12 minutes grueling walking, running and biking at Texas Triathlon Two, held here Saturday. Morphey was the last of 710 people managed to finish all three events. 900 originally entered the triathlon.

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Pastoral letter completed

Nuclear war principles set

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Two key figures involved in drafting the Roman Catholic bishops' prop-

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osed pastoral letter on nuclear war said Saturday that the latest toned-down version is still "significantly at variance" with administration policy.

"Specifically, we could not accept any suggestion that there are relatively few and insignificant differences between U.S. policies and the policies advocated in the pastoral letter," Archbishop John R. Roach and Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin said in a joint statement.

The proposed letter sets out various levels of Catholic-church teaching and attempts to

apply moral principles to nuclear war issues. The document's teaching has various levels of authority for Catholics.

When the statement was made public last Tuesday, both administration comment and some media reports suggested the bishops had caved in to administration criticisms of the document's second draft.

Bernardin, at a news conference, acknowledged the new proposal was "more flexible" than the second draft, but he insisted it has not "lost its prophetic character or basic moral

thrust."

"These include, for advocacy of a policy of use" of nuclear weapons support for early and conclusion of negotiating the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty," he said.

They said no draft word "freeze." The second draft called for support for a bilateral, verifiable agreement to halt the production and deployment of nuclear weapons systems. The third draft changed the word "halt" to "curb."

"In both drafts the intent is a call to cap the and reduce the weapons sides as rapidly as possible, with particular emphasis on particularly destabilizing systems," he said.

"As the second draft endorse a specific freeze, so the third draft and should not be opposed any specific proposal," Roach and Bernardin said.

Roach and Bernardin second draft had been for seeming to put both the United States and Soviet Union on the same moral footing.

They said the draft meets those objections implicitly critical — against, reasonably so — of major elements of U.S. policy.

"The basic moral thrust of the document is, we summed up in these sentences: 'A justifiable use must be both discriminating and proportionate. Certain actions of both U.S. and Soviet powers fail both tests,'"

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