

Catholic Work for Refugees in Hong Kong

THE Refugee Week instituted by His Lordship the Bishop ends on Sunday, May 15. Prayers are asked for refugees the world over. Collections taken up during Masses on Sunday, May 15, are to be assigned to "the Catholic Works of Assistance for the Refugees in this Diocese."

The following incomplete account of what is being done in Hong Kong by these Catholic Works of Assistance gives some idea of the immense efforts to which you are asked to contribute.

Refugee Centres

Churches and welfare centres have been established in six refugee areas. Three more such centres are being built. Several other churches and welfare centres deal mainly with refugees.

Food

During 1959, 24,700,000 lbs. of food was distributed to the poor of the diocese without distinction of religion. The noodle output is now about 190,000 lbs. per month. By the end of May new machines will have increased this figure to 300,000 lbs.

Housing

3,020 cottages have been built for refugees by Catholic Relief Services and other Catholic organizations and have been allocated without distinction of religion by the Social Welfare Department. A further 250 cottages will have been built by Christmas, 1960.

Of the cottages built for refugees by voluntary non-profit-making organizations in Hong Kong since the beginning of the refugee crisis, 60 per cent have been built by Catholic organizations. In 1959, the Catholic proportion was about 80 per cent.

Clinics

The C.R.S. Mobile Clinic operates in seven refugee areas. Eight stable Catholic clinics operate in refugee areas. The eight other stable Catholic clinics treat many refugees. 339,000 cases were treated without charge in 1959.

Education

10,620 pupils attend Catholic schools in refugee areas alone. Many refugees attend Catholic schools in other areas. There are also numerous Catholic boys' and girls' clubs and children's and week-end play centres.