

# Gilda ..... An Almost Tragedy

After Typhoon Gilda, apparently heading directly for Guam with winds approaching 150 knots, veered off, and by-passed the island there were a lot of very grateful people. Guam was spared the tremendous forces of the winds in a situation that could be compared to a miracle.

One local Sister, on that day, told us about the Carmelite Sisters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a few years back. She said that a tornado was roaring straight towards Grand Rapids, and towards the Carmelite Convent in that city. Suddenly the tornado swerved away from the city, and the Convent, and vent its spleen elsewhere, causing small damaged and destruction. She attributed this to prayers set up by the good sisters.

It's possible that some prayers helped save from the forces of Gilda, too. Newspapers are supposed to be objective, and realistic in their editorial comments. And we try to be.

But looking at the path that Gilda took, we just won't discount the possibility that somebody down here reached somebody up there.

We can sing the praises today too of many groups, and individuals that helped us all weather the storm. Particularly, though, our cheers go out to the U.S. Navy, for their invaluable assistance, to the Air Force and Navy Weather squadrons that had to fly continuously into the eye of this tremendous typhoon so that we would know the true picture, and to Fleet Weather Central/Joint Typhoon Warning, for their up-to-the minute evaluations, and warnings. It was a tremendous job, and deserves a "well done" salute by the people of Guam. Finally, a bit of praise to the Government of Guam, and their shelters, and warnings, which made it possible for everyone to escape with only minor damage--and would have prevented loss of limb and life if the full force had struck the island.

Our hats are off too, to KUAM, and KUAM-TV, for their fine public service warnings throughout the emergency. They did an excellent job of letting the islanders know what the situation was.