

**Editorial**

**More on Refugees**

Our government's position in the Far East, when it has not been chaotic, has been inscrutable. The greatest example of this has been its mysterious lack of action concerning those classified as Missing in Action. Despite the pleas of American families over the years, the U.S. has maintained a stolid no-say stance.

This is symbolic of our whole official people-to-people policy with regard to Indochina. Indeed we have befriended one of the overlords of international communism, China, while warring with smaller nations ostensibly to prevent the spread of that doctrine. Ping pong for Peking, bombs for Cambodia.

One of the bright exceptions in this whole drab picture was the bold, unhesitating offer of help from President Ford to the Vietnamese refugees. It made it clear that showing a heart can be as important as saving a face.

Now it has been revealed that there are some 42,000 South Vietnamese stranded on Phy Quoc island, about 50 miles south of Vietnam in the Bay of Thailand. Food is growing short and needless to say the position is precarious for the refugees, many of whom are Catholics and said to include some 300 Catholic nuns and many priests.

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, president of the U.S. Catholic Conference, has sent telegrams to President Ford, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, urging "prompt, humane action" on behalf of those stranded.

He also called upon the United States to support U.N. efforts to see if refugee status be granted for the residents of the island, many of whom have fled North Vietnam. Such status would make possible U.N. action to remove them from the island and find asylum for them.

All concerned, and that, factually, is each of us, should write to President Ford to commend him for his refugee stand to date, to alert him to the danger for these 42,000 Vietnamese, and to continue to press for an answer to the mysterious shroud surrounding the fate of our own men classified as Missing in Action.

**Time to Lead**

Not all the publicity that Boys Town has gotten the past couple of years has been salutary but last week it made a move that definitely can be classified as putting its best foot forward. It hired one of the first Vietnamese refugees to arrive in the Omaha area to work in its Visitors Center.

This is the kind of leadership needed now to remind Americans that this country is famed for open arms and not for turned backs.

And, of course, it is fitting that Catholics are in the vanguard of those offering assistance to the refugees. Fitting because we have acted that way in the past and fitting because so many of us or our forbears were in similar straits as the Vietnamese.

Our own diocese through our Catholic Family Center will help resettle Vietnamese. The center will handle applications from groups or individuals willing to serve as sponsors and also will answer requests from the refugee camps for information about this area. Anyone who can be of assistance to the Catholic Family Center should contact James Maloney at 546-7220 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

**Spirited Support**

Congratulations to all those, particularly the members of the Pastoral Council Formation Committee, who have worked so hard for so long, to make the DPC a reality, which it will become this Friday.

As the DPC meets in its first historic session over the weekend, it would be fitting for all diocesans to stop and say a prayer that the Holy Spirit guide its work.

**Opinion**

**Missioners Aid the Poor**

Editor:

Daniel and Margaret Whalen of East Avon, support a dispensary in a poor, primitive Indian town in Mexico, Santa Ana Tepetitlan, located up a rough cobblestone road in the remote hills some miles from Guadalajara. They maintain the dispensary year-around and work there six months a year.

There is no telephone at Santa Ana, and no doctor except the one paid by the Whalens. Financing the dispensary is costly. Patients are asked to give a small cooperation fee, and those who are able pay something toward cost of special prescriptions. Some cannot pay anything. With their own earnings here, Dan and Margaret depend upon donations from friends to sustain their mission.

Inflation is rampant in Mexico with tragic results for the poor. Medicine and food prices rise alarmingly. In Santa Ana the Indian people lack education and skills so their earnings are pitifully meager. There is no welfare, and soaring food prices result in acute malnutrition with all its evils. This year for the first time families came to beg for food.

The winter of 1974 when I worked there with Dan and Margaret they gave a generous weekly allotment of staple foods to elderly women — the poorest of the poor, some of them blind. Since then the food program has had to be reduced to use the money for medicine and life-giving special formulas for malnourished dehydrated babies.

It is not easy to picture the extreme poverty and primitive living conditions of the Indian people at Santa Ana: eyes that cannot read, hands that cannot write, people bewildered and groping between the modern world and their ancient heritage. Mexico is more than the bright lights of Acapulco. Sadly it is also the lonely wasteland of forgotten towns like Santa Ana which the tourist rarely sees.

As a self-help project, Dan and Margaret buy fabrics and Margaret teaches sewing to the women who make maternity dresses, layettes, etc.

Dan and Margaret give at least two fiestas with prizes for best sewing, raffles, music, food and soft drinks. These are happy occasions since there is little recreation at Santa Ana. We had three while I was there and they were joyous events.

Dan and Margaret live at 1549 Rochester Road (Route 15 East



**Bishop Joseph L. Hogan**  
President

**Anthony J. Costello**  
General Manager

**Carmen J. Viglucci**  
Editor

**Rev. Louis J. Hohman**  
Episcopal Advisor

Vol 90 No 6 June 11, 1975

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription Rates: Single copy 15¢. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and Foreign, \$10.00. Offices, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal 1



"HE KEEPS HOPING CHER WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT HER COSTUMES."

Avon, and welcome friends, old and new.

Ms. Margaret Byrne  
25 Kisingbury St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14613

**More Letters On Page 6**

**Finding The Clue**

Editor:

I didn't go to Mass today because I felt I couldn't God—I'd gone astray, and yet I knew God loves sinners and wishes to mold them to perfection. I pictured our Heavenly Father as being very sad, lonely and disheartened to see His poor black sheep don't love Him as much as they did when they were brought to His side before baptism. Then, I reminded myself that this must be what "spiritual barrenness" meant.

I eagerly read Me, Myself and You and How To Be Your Own Best Friend in search for an answer to find the right path to God's plan for my life. Could I find my Heavenly Father again, I asked myself, through thought control? I'd made a pre-baptismal commitment to live to serve those closest to me displaying love of God and living a good example to achieve Christian maturity at least following the Ten Commandments and the Church's commandments to please God. Had I forgotten already what meant so much to me before I was baptized — the fervent desire to eat His Body and drink His Blood?

Yet, didn't a guest speaker, priest, give the clue once that faith is built through constant prayer and spiritual exercise, "We inhale God through prayer and exhale good deeds."

Reflecting back, I realized where the seeds of ardent zeal to achieve my religious potential came from through studying the Catholic faith and fervent prayer for understanding, constant communication with God. And hadn't all my prayers been answered? I meekly realized whatever I'd asked for had been given me.

Through the lives of others, our paths intertwine to unfold God's vine for each of our lives. It's true He allows us to struggle and suffer so we will not doubt Him. We turn to Him in trouble, in thanksgiving and in reparation for our sins. We need each other—we need the ideals He implants in our minds.

Miss Marilyn J. Cook  
378 Webster Avenue  
Rochester, N.Y. 14609

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

**Alliance Criticized**

Editor:

The St. Joan's Alliance was founded in 1911 in England with a U.S. chapter founded in 1965. Locally we are also unfortunate to have a chapter. Most notably it is directly aligned with the infamous National Organization of Women, the voice of doom for unborn babies, the family, and all sanctity in general.

Presently this alliance is crusading for the misnamed Equal Rights Amendment. This amendment has no place in the structure of His Church so we will not mention it any more than is necessary.

For all of its 2,000 years as the visible structure of our Lord, the Church has gone through many, many conflicts. Today, with the fall of Christendom that we are adjusting to, the Church is again being afflicted by its own who have been duped into following the ways of the world.

Reading through the gospels we find our Blessed Lord telling and showing the way; the truth, and the life, and never but never does He argue or debate anyone. He speaks then walks away. So it is today with his visible structure the Church, you either accept Him or you reject Him. And with regards to the abortion issue the Church defines abortion as "a serious sin of murder" and binds it with immediate excommunication, "He who hears you hears Me and he who rejects you rejects Me and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

But the door is never closed permanently to those who reject Him. And if one does have a change of heart, admits guilt and renounces sin through the Sacrament of Penance "it will be open to you." But you must knock first and our Lord will always be waiting for that special unique knock that belongs to you alone. And hopefully anyone who associates with the St. Joan's Alliance, the NOW Organization, and any such group as these will seriously do some real soul searching and see where that soul is destined, for "apart from Me you can do nothing."

Richard and Theresa Hussar  
340 Jordan Ave.  
Rochester