

Refugees: Deadline Nears for Laotian Family

By JOHN DASH

Although plans are being developed to bring two Southeast Asian refugee families to the area, the prospects for at least one of the families are uncertain.

Even though Blessed Sacrament Parish Council has agreed that the parish will sponsor the 11-member Seng Vue family, the arrival date for the family has not yet been arranged. And, according to John Caselli, who is spearheading the parish effort, "This is their last shot." He explains that the family had been sponsored once before, but plans for their immigration fell through at the last moment.

As reported in last week's Courier-Journal, the Vues are facing a double deadline. Not only are the refugee quotas for immigration to the United

Father G. Stuart Hogan, a retired diocesan priest, last week told the Courier-Journal that he will match a single contribution up to the amount of \$1,000, for the family of Seng Vue.

Funds for the Vue family are being gathered by the Blessed Sacrament Refugee Fund, in care of John Caselli, 280 Rosedale St., Rochester, N.Y., 14620.

States quickly being filled, but also Seng's wife is in her sixth month of pregnancy. Airlines refuse passage to women in their eighth month.

The Vues are Laotians, now living in a refugee camp in Thailand. They are Catholic.

At press time Caselli noted that the parish has been able to raise about

\$1,200 so far. The parish has organized committees for the effort.

According to Gail Kowalski of the Refugee Resettlement of the Genesee Valley, an ecumenical group, the cost of transportation alone for the Vues will total more than \$2,432.

The plight of the Vue family was brought to the parish council's attention by Margaret Finucane, long known in the area as a social activist.

When they heard the Vues' story, "the reaction of the council was based on a gut feeling," Caselli said.

"This family is the most immediate in need," he noted. The council was also presented with the stories of other families in Southeast Asian refugee camps.

"Their skills are extremely limited," Caselli observed. The father alone has had education, four or five years of elementary education. The language the family speaks is a rural dialect of Laotian. The Vues have been in the Thailand camp for the past two years.

A second family, Vietnamese Buddhists, now in a Singapore refugee camp, has been sponsored by a family in Honeoye Falls. Mrs. Kowalski said that that sponsorship followed the publication of facts about the Thai Nguyen family in last week's Courier-Journal.

Again, as of press-time, no date has been set for their arrival.

Both Mrs. Kowalski and Kevin Cullen of the Office of Human Development noted a great response from diocesans following the appearance of that story.

Mrs. Finucane pointed out that the bill, S2751, proposed by Sen. Edward Kennedy, would up refugee quotas. The United States presently will accept 7,000 Asian refugees, an extension of the 15,000 limit Congress set last year. Sen. Kennedy proposes to raise that figure

to 40,000. It is estimated, however, that there are more than 150,000 refugees in Thailand camps alone.

Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., it was reported that President Jimmy Carter has approved the elements of an interim refugee policy that will permit admission to this country of all Vietnamese "boat people" refused asylum elsewhere and of those Southeast Asians in refugee camps who have close familial and political ties to the U.S.

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State Legislature Focus on Abortion

Leaders of the State Legislature were working hard at Courier-Journal presstime trying to get their act together after last Friday's vote, which amended the budget to restrict use of Medicaid funds for abortions.

The vote followed a

refusal by the Assembly to approve the amendment which would cut funding of abortions from the state budget.

Legislators reportedly were trying to separate the abortion amendment from the \$12 billion state budget in order to erase the threat

of fiscal chaos for municipalities which depend on state funds to pay their bills.

Early in the week, the Democratic leadership of the Assembly reportedly was in no mind to reconsider the issue after that house defeated the amendment, 81-66, Friday. Observers felt the Assembly was counting on the Senate to give in to pressure to remove the amendment from the budget.

Regardless of the eventual outcome, the Senate vote represented a major victory for pro-life forces who have effectively focused the state's attention on the fact New York is one of a minority of states which fund Medicaid abortions.

"We've waited for this moment for 8 to 10 years," said Sen. James Donovan of Oneida who led the revolt of Republicans against their Senate leadership. He told the Associated Press, "We have been frustrated by the Legislature, the courts, Congress and many other obstacles."

A Brooklyn senator, William T. Conklin, declared, "This is a vote for life."

The Senate vote followed

This week the Courier-Journal presents the second of two essays exploring the impact of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the movement for civil rights. Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Francis SVD describes Dr. King's influence within the Roman Catholic black community. April 10 marks the tenth anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. Bishop Francis' essay appears on Page 11.

Support Chest, Bishop Asks

March, 1978

My dear People;

The United Community Chest of Greater Rochester has traditionally been one of the most successful campaigns in our country. The Community Chest appeal is now in the process of raising adequate funds for human care services to reach out and help those in need.

The Chest support, by means of your generous contribution, helps the Church of Rochester carry out its social mission in a way that is consonant with Catholic teaching.

In my pastoral letter FOCUS ON THE YEAR 1977-1978 I made mention that leadership is a gift which inspires God's people first to recognize their own special gifts and then to offer them generously in a life of caring concern for the needs of our brethren. This year I appeal to your generosity for support of the United Community Chest Campaign. I ask for your prayers for the success of the 1978 Community Chest appeal and for all those whose lives will be aided by your charity.

May the Lord continue to bless you for your generosity.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph L. Hogan
Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester



Undaunted

Pope Paul, apparently recovered from a lengthy bout with influenza, braved a light drizzle and cold wind to celebrate an outdoor Easter Mass on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica before about 250,000. After the 58-minute service, the 80-year-old pontiff who had canceled five Holy Week appearances delivered the traditional Easter message from the central of the basilica. (RNS)

Ordination Scheduled

Ordination rites for Robert John Schrader will be celebrated on Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Holy Family Church, where he has served as a deacon intern since last June.

"Proclaim the truth openly, Christ Jesus as Lord," selected from the second reading for the feast of St. John Baptist de La

Salle, is the theme of the ordination liturgy

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will be the presiding prelate.

Father Schrader is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman J. Schrader of Nelson Street. The ordinand attended Blessed Sacrament School, St. Andrew's Seminary, and Becket Hall at St. John Fisher College, where, in 1971, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and was president of the college Glee Club.

In 1973, after two years at St. Bernard's Seminary, he became assistant director of St. John the Baptist Community Center for the Office of Social Apostolate in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. After directing the summer "Witness" program there in 1974, he took his Clinical Pastoral Education at California Hospital Medical Center in Los Angeles, Resthaven Psychiatric Hospital and Community Mental Health

Center also in Los Angeles, and the Fred C. Nelles State Correction School in Whittier, Calif.

Returning to St. Bernard's in 1975, he completed his studies last year for both his

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BRIDES
1978



It's time for weddings and in this issue, the Courier-Journal offers a special Brides, 1978 feature. This pull-out section, (pages 1A-12A), offers information regarding the practical, religious and legal aspects of marriage such as the State Marriage Regulations, Guidelines for Interfaith Marriages, Pre-Cana Conference Schedule and information about Natural Family Planning.



FR. SCHRADER