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Elmira, Corning Parishes Involved

Parishes Sponsoring Refugee Families

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — An interest in helping Vietnamese 'Boat People' has caused three separate groups in the Southern Tier to consider sponsoring such families in their communities.

The parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Patrick's and St. Mary's, are awaiting the arrival of their family, four brothers and sisters. The parishes' effort is headed by Mary Ann DiBerardino and Marion Crouse.

Another group of parishes, including St. Mary

Our Mother, Horseheads, St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights, and St. Peter and Paul, Elmira, is expecting a brother and sister sometime in August.

Meanwhile, the Corning parishes, St. Vincent's, St. Patrick's and St. Mary's, are just beginning discussions to see if there is sufficient support to sponsor a family.

Mrs. DiBerardino reported that her group, which mainly involves the Human Development Committees of the three parishes, signed the papers in February, and have been working to collect the necessary items and find

housing since then. Mrs. Crouse noted that there has been a "very good response in the Church" to requests for donations. "People are anxious to help," she said.

In preparation for the arrival of the Truong family, Mrs. Crouse went to classes at Elmira Free Academy in learning English as a second language. She noted that it is "really frustrating to not be able to explain" something because of the language barrier. Those in the class, she said, are "eager to learn" and "quick to grasp" language.

The Truong family consists of 21-year old Anh, her brothers Nam, 16, and Tai, 14, and a sister Phuong, 12. Their parents and three more brothers and sisters are still in Vietnam.

The three parishes have been dividing up the responsibilities, the women said. Our Lady of Lourdes has been collecting furniture, St. Patrick's is preparing to provide food, and St. Mary's is supplying clothing.

Heading up the effort at St. Patrick's is Mary Jo Semler. Sister Julia Clare is coordinating the effort at St. Mary's.

The family will be housed temporarily on the third floor of her house, Mrs. Crouse said, and they probably will move to subsidized housing. She noted that one thing those involved have to do is to make a budget and see what types of assistance will be required.

Susan Hoobler of St. Mary Our Mother is heading up the effort by her parish and St. Charles and St. Peter and Paul. Currently, she said, "everything is on hold." As they understand it, a shortage of funds means that there will be a wait before

the 20-year-old man and his 15-year-old sister will arrive, possibly in August.

Much work has been done, she said, and they're "just kind of waiting" for the word that the two are on the way.

In Corning, discussions are just beginning. Looking into the prospect are the Human Development Committees of the three parishes. Heading the efforts are Dolores Allen, St. Patrick's; Mary Faucett, St. Mary's; and Ann Marie Detrick, St. Vincent's.



The St. Mary Choir performs with the accompaniment of the newly installed organ.

Organ Dedicated In Auburn

Auburn — An antique organ was installed and dedicated recently at St. Mary's Church here. The organ was a gift presented to Msgr. James Cuffney, pastor, by the people of the parish.

Richard Strauss, an organ builder from Ithaca. The organ is entirely self contained and mounted on a rolling frame allowing it to be moved within the church.

Made in 1884 in Buffalo the organ was restored by

During the dedication Mass Pentecost music was performed by the 35-member

parish choir, directed by David Correll.

Nursing School Graduates 42

Elmira — Academic honors were bestowed on 10 of the 42 graduating students of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing at ceremonies Saturday, June 9 at St. Peter and Paul Church.

In ceremonies presided over by Bishop John E. Mc Cafferty, Joy Snee of Mansfield, Pa., received the Father Francis J. Walker Memorial Award for highest scholastic achievement. Kathleen Lynch of Elmira received the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing Faculty Recognition Award. The School of Nursing Alumni Award for excellence in nursing practice was presented to Patricia Farrell of Bradford, Pa. Mary Lou Carey of Pine City was the recipient of the District 3, NYSNA award for outstanding leadership in student activities as well as the Rita Corcoran Stoddard Memorial Award for outstanding clinical performance. Deborah Palmieri of Elmira received the Chemung County Medical Auxiliary Award for outstanding clinical performance. Brenda Wilson of Bath was the recipient of the Dr. J. Lee Kinner Memorial Award for proficiency in operating room nursing, and Colleen Forsyth

Alcoholism Film To Be Shown

Elmira — There will be an Alcoholism Seminar at St. Joseph's Hospital in the Doctors Meeting Room Thursday, June 21, at 12:15 p.m. The Southern Tier Alcoholism Rehabilitation Service has obtained the film "One for Yourself" for presentation.

The film is a production of "Operation Cork" of the Kroc Foundation and deals with the reactions children have to an alcoholic parent or parents. The film is available only for a single showing.

Rummage Sale

Van Etten — St. Pius X Church will hold a rummage sale June 14-16 in the church hall on Main Street. Clean, usable clothing, books, toys, dishes and furniture are among the offerings. The sale runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. tomorrow and Friday; 9:00 noon on Saturday.



Special Gift

Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, SSJ, principal at Holy Trinity School, Auburn, received a check for the school at a Teacher Recognition Night June 1. The check was presented by Charles King (shown above with Sister Walter Anne) who is president of the Blessed Trinity Home School Association.



Anniversary

Father Richard Egan, pastor at St. Bernard's, Scipio Center; St. Hilary, Genoa; and St. Isaac Jogues, Fleming, celebrated his 25 years as a priest on June 3. An outdoor reception was held at St. Bernard's. Here Mrs. Marie Dougherty, a parishioner, offers her congratulations.



May Crowning

Peggy Tolbert places a crown on the statue of the Blessed Mother in May crowning ceremonies at St. Casimir's School, Elmira. Assisting her is the king for the event, Maurizio Perfetti. The May crowning and living rosary drew an excellent response, as the students' grandparents also were invited to the school for the day to take part in the ceremonies. Leading the prayer service was Father Richard Murphy.

Members Elected

Hornell — New members have been elected to the St. Ann's Parish Council and the school board.

New members of the council will be Peter Arcangeli, Nancy Bartell, Connie Koehler and Doris Zelfiff. The four began their terms at the June 4 meeting.

New members of the school board are Betty Arcangeli, Mary Kelleher and James Mooney.

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