

# Today's Courier July 11, 1979

## SSJ Reflection . . . . . 14

A Reflection Weekend has been scheduled to open the second phase of the 1979 General Chapter of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The weekend will take place July 13-15 for delegates. All other members of the congregation have been asked to participate either at their own convents or at the Motherhouse where the delegates are meeting.

## Pope In Plea . . . 3

Pope John Paul II has issued a plea for the world to come to the aid of the more than 700,000 Indochina refugees, referred to as the "boat people." In an impassioned appeal, the pontiff called for an international conference to find homes for the refugees trapped on boats or in temporary camps.



## Concern for Victims . . . 13

An attempt to do something to aid crime victims is coming from the Coalition for Criminal Justice in Chemung County, which is sponsoring the Neighborhood Justice Program. Aiding such victims and resolving ongoing neighborhood disputes will be the heart of the project's efforts, which the new program's staff hopes will eventually involve 40 volunteers.

## Tioga Project Goes On . . 13

The two Sisters of Mercy who began the Tioga Rural Ministry Project last summer are moving on but their replacements will continue the effort to help the county's poor. The project is sponsored by the county's five parishes and the Sisters of Mercy. The year was a busy one for Sister Carol Wulforst and Sister Kathleen Flaherty as their final report indicates.

## Message to Somoza . . . . 3

Bishop Thomas Kelly, secretary general of the U.S. Catholic Conference, has supported this country's call for the withdrawal from power of Nicaraguan leader Anastasio Somoza.

## Change in Jobs . . . . . 6

Nazareth Academy loses a principal but the diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph gain an assistant superior. After 29 years in the educational field, Sister Mary Jean Smith is moving into the planning and personnel area of her religious community. In this week's issue she discusses her years at Nazareth and her future challenges.

## Sheen

### From 1

vocacy Committee, chairperson Eleanor Bluhm said that the 1978-79 year was first in which advocacy really got under way. The committee's purpose is to "convince influential leaders in the Housing sector" the housing needs of people in the county diocese, she said.

The committee concentrated on the state level this year, regularly contacting the governor's office, and the 8 state senators, 14 state assemblymen who represent the 12 counties.

Fitzpatrick reported for the Home Ownership committee. He said the committee screens applicants for loans to make sure they can afford the mortgage once the down payment is granted. The committee so far has accepted 24 applications. They have denied 17 because the applicants did not meet foundation guidelines.

Father William Spilly representing the Education Committee, said that a questionnaire was sent out to all parish human development committees in the diocese. The questionnaire was designed to ascertain what specific needs each area of the diocese may be experiencing in regard to housing for the poor.

The results were disappointing, Father Spilly said, in that few parishes replied. He felt that the poor response showed the need for educating diocesans on the problems of finding homes for people who could never afford one by themselves.

Robert DeGregorio gave the Project Review committee report. The committee's chief function is to review loan applications from non-profit housing organizations in the diocese.

DeGregorio observed that two problems have emerged which hinder the work of these groups. Rehabilitation and construction of homes has suffered greatly from spiraling inflation, slowing down projects and sometimes stopping them. The non-profit groups who work with the foundation are also very dependent on government grants. Many of these grants have been reduced and others continue on a year by year basis making future planning difficult.

After the committee report, Father Charles Mulligan,

director of the Office of Social Ministries, thanked foundation members for another year of hard work. He also asked members to look into the possibility of helping the Boat People of Southeast Asia. "Anything done for them would be very important," he said.

Bishop Clark ended the meeting by thanking members "for the education I received tonight" in regard to foundation functions. "I'll do my best to continue the support given by Bishop Hogan and Archbishop Sheen," he said and pledged his assistance whenever and however he could give it.

Bishop Clark added that he hopes to look at Sheen Foundation members as individuals and not a nameless group of people working together.

The board of directors for 1979-80 are Eleanor K. Bluhm, Lewis A. Childs, Jr., Richard J. Crossed, Georgia T. DeGregorio, Robert A. DeGregorio, George D. Entz, R. Michael Fitzpatrick, Victor Hadeed, Rosemarie Horvath, Diane Cusolito Moonan, Dorothy Ritsco, the Rev. Ivory Simmons, Father William V. Spilly, and Sister Mary Wintish RSM.



Photo by Sid Smith

## C-J Honored

Joan M. Smith accepts on behalf of the Courier-Journal the Communications Award presented to the newspaper by Carolyn Schum, president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Women's Gold Chevron Auxiliary Post 2700. The citation reads, "In recognition of outstanding reporting of VFW Auxiliary Programs of patriotism and service, aiding veterans and their families, community and Nation."

## Volunteers Needed

The Multiple Sclerosis Society is looking for volunteers to help with an August camp program for adults at Camp Haccamo. Help is needed day and night, particularly between 7:30 and 10 a.m., and 8:30-11 p.m. Workers who wish to stay overnight may do so. They must be at least 18 years old. Sessions run from Monday through Friday, Aug. 20-24 and 27-31. Pam Bartemus at the organization's office in the Sigl Center can supply details. The telephone number is 442-4100, ext. 288.

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