



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

New arrivals to the United States are two Laotian refugee families who arrived at the Monroe County Airport last Thursday night. Above, Khampheng Manivong, 22, left center, and his 19-year old wife, Bounleua, center, are greeted by Barbara Letvin, left, of the Catholic Family Center, Deacon Joseph Larabee, right center, of Holy Ghost Church, and Boun Manivong, far right, cousin of Khampheng and resident of Webster. The couple is sponsored by Holy Ghost parish and is expecting the birth of their first child within the next two months.

## Parishes Help

Exiting from the airplane and entering a new life are Sikhoune Phouthauong, 26, right, and his wife, Chittaphong, 25, carrying their seven-month old daughter, Chittaphon. Their family also includes Mrs. Phouthauong's brother, Sinala, not pictured. They are being sponsored by St. Catherine's parish of Mendon.



President Jimmy Carter announces his pledge to up U.S. aid for the starving in Cambodia. Cardinal Terence Cooke is at left, Father Theodore Hesburgh, at right.

## Peter Lance: Eyewitness to Tragedy Speaks in Rochester

By John Dash

In Rochester last week, the situation in Cambodia, and of the Indochinese refugees in general, was highlighted in discussions at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Peter Lance, the award winning producer of ABC News' 20/20 program, and an eyewitness to the situation in Southeast Asia, presented a program on the refugees.

Lance, a Roman Catholic, said that the Church bears a special responsibility, "since so many of the refugees are Roman Catholics."

"The key problem," he said, "is that almost 500 refugees a day are crossing borders in the area," and it becomes increasingly difficult to gather accurate figures on the numbers and locations of people displaced in the three-front war. He listed the conflicts as the China/Vietnam conflict, the Vietnamese/Khmer Rouge fighting in Cambodia, and the conflict in Laos. He described the last as a "carbon copy of the last eight years of the Vietnam War."

"The one constant throughout the area is that people are dying," he said.

He also said that he fears the Laotian mountain people are victims of the "worst genocide in the century."

The graduate of DeLaSalle Academy in Newport, R.I., said that he was presenting his program on refugees because, "when you see starving at first hand, then there is an ethical response you have to make."

He applauded the Catholic Relief Services actions in the area and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, here as "doing what the apostles did."

## Cambodia Facts

AD 100 — First recorded history; the Fou-nan Kingdom.

500-600 — Khmer (God-Kings) invasion (from India?); establishment of Buddhism and the Khmer Kingdom.

900-1000 — Height of the Khmer Empire.

1200-1300 — Incursions from Siam (Thailand) and Annam (Vietnam); destruction of Khmer Empire; continuing incursions over the centuries.

1500 — Evangelization begins, meets with only limited success, principally among the Vietnamese.

1700 — Border conflicts again reported.

1863 — France establishes protectorate; attempts to define Cambodia/Vietnam border.

1948 — Constitutional monarchy established; king reluctant to assume throne; the post shifts between father and son.

1960 — Reports of massacre of Vietnamese in Cambodia.

1970 — Lon Nol (with help from the U.S.) takes over government; Prince Sihanouk, in Peking, forms government-in-exile; Cambodian monarchy abolished; growing concern voiced over prospect of future famine as Cambodia is embroiled in the Vietnam War.

1975 — Khmer Rouge (Cambodian communists) under leadership of Pol Pot take over Lon Nol government; systematic destruction of Buddhism underway.

1977 — Cambodia severs diplomatic relations with Vietnam; many border conflicts reported.

1978 — Vietnam invades; Pol Pot, chased to Thai border; Heng Samrin government established at Phnom Penh, food is reported at a critical point.

1979 — Land reported devastated; rice which should have been planted in June and July is instead eaten by the starving.

## Bishop Clark

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shelter for people whose very lives are now in peril. I also urge you to inform your elected representatives in Congress that you support a major humanitarian relief effort by this country.

I am coming to you asking help for people in extraordinary need. You have my thanks for your goodness and generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Matthew H. Clark*

+ Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester

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