

COURIER-JOURNAL

Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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Church Women Urged to Help Refugees

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira Heights — Members of Church Women United (CWU) heard a plea to become personally involved in the effort to aid the refugees from Indochina at their World Community Day observance at Oakwood Methodist Church Friday, Nov. 2.

Margery Nurnberg told those attending the prayer service of her experiences in helping a Vietnamese family, and called on the women attending to go to their parishes and urge sponsorship of a refugee family.

Ms. Nurnberg, who is director of the diocesan Ecumenism Office and a St. Patrick's, Elmira, parishioner, listed possible reasons against aiding a family, and discounted each.

As to where they will live, she responded simply "in

your house," or in some other arrangement. As for clothes, "everybody has extra clothes." Other expenses such as medical, can be taken care of through Medicaid, she noted, and as for food, donations can take care of that. She added that many people have donated to help the family she has worked with.

She noted that in 1975, the refugees who came to this country were primarily those who had worked for the United States during the war. Now more refugees are from the villages and are less educated. In their desperation to get out of Vietnam, she pointed out, "thousands upon thousands have been drowned" as the result of ship sinkings, or of being thrown off boats in the open sea.

She described how one family arrived in Elmira a year ago, "three pathetic people" with only the clothes on their backs.

The 21- and 22-year old parents and their newly born daughter arrived after 18 hours on planes. The baby had had the same diaper on for the entire trip, and was so weak that she could not nurse. The mother was ill, and the father was in a state of shock.

Ms. Nurnberg noted that "if you had such a baby put in your arms" any resistance to extending all the help possible would vanish.

She told the women that she was not trying to make them feel guilty, but to point out the extreme need. "No matter what you give them it's better than what they have," she said.

Asked about the political situation in Indochina, Ms. Nurnberg responded that she really wasn't too well versed on the various factions. Her concern, she said, is with helping the refugees, many thousands of whom are still waiting in refugee camps.

Tompkins Cable To Air TV Programs

Ithaca — Jesuit Father John Powell's "Free to Be Me" series will be shown over cable television in Tompkins County beginning Monday, Nov. 19, and running for five weeks.

In conjunction with the showing, discussion groups are being formed. The groups will view the shows and then discuss them. Discussion guides are available and are being distributed through the Immaculate Conception Shop, 107 W. Seneca St., Ithaca.

The five programs will each be shown twice on cable channel 13, on Monday from 9 to 9:30 a.m., and on Tuesday from 7 to 7:30 p.m. The showings will run for five consecutive weeks, beginning Monday and Tuesday Nov. 19 and 20; the final program will be shown Dec. 17 and 18.

Father Powell, professor of theology at Loyola University

Program Schedule

Elmira — The seventh week of programs broadcast by the Chemung County Catholic Network will include discussions of hunger, social conditions, the mentally handicapped and faith.

Wednesday, Nov. 14, social conditions will be the topic in a program produced by the United States Catholic Conference in connection with the Campaign for Human Development. On Wednesday, Nov. 21, a program will deal with the problems of the mentally handicapped and their return to society.

Friday, Nov. 16, several Catholics will discuss their faith. And Monday, Nov. 19, world famine will be the theme of a program that includes cast members Lynn Carlin, William Daniels and Tim Matheson.

All programs are shown over cable channel 4 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. on the Chemung County cable system.

in Chicago, has written books that have sold five million copies. He is known for his sensitive understanding of the human condition.

The Tompkins County parishes are each helping to form the groups. Those from Immaculate Conception Parish should call Sister Elizabeth Hughes at 273-6121. Holy Cross, Dryden, parishioners should call 844-8466.

Representatives of the parishes of Immaculate Conception and St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca, Holy Cross Dryden and All Saints, Lansing have been working with Sister Jane Geiger of the diocesan office to organize the showing.

Survey Planned

Elmira — The Chemung County Catholic Network will be conducting a survey to determine the effectiveness of its 36-program series of television shows currently running over the cable system in Chemung County.

Sunday, Nov. 18 has been picked as the survey date, and parishioners of St. Casimir's Church and of a Protestant church will be surveyed in an attempt to ascertain the series' effectiveness. Surveys also will be mailed to those who requested program guides.

The series runs through Dec. 24.

Family Mass

Elmira — The Catholic Marriage and Family Enrichment Committee of the Chemung-Schuyler Region will sponsor a liturgy for families titled "Count Your Blessings," at St. Patrick's Church Friday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. The Mass, for all Christian families, will be celebrated by Father Daniel Holland. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the school hall.

Hunger Walk Planned

Ithaca — Tompkins County's Area Congregations Together (ACT) is sponsoring a Hunger Walk Sunday, Nov. 18, to benefit CROP, the hunger-fighting agency of Church World Service.

The walk is the final event of a two-week program on hunger which began last Saturday with a Cambodian Benefit Night, and continued with a Fast Day at Cornell University Tuesday, Nov. 13.

On Saturday, Nov. 17, there will be a lifestyle workshop at First Baptist Church, Ithaca, from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Titled "More with Less," the workshop will be presented by Ann Naylor.

The Hunger Walk will begin at 1:30 p.m. on the Ithaca Commons, and will proceed down Cayuga Street to Stewart Park. In case of bad weather, walkers should listen to radio station WTKO to see if there is a change of plans.

Ten percent of the proceeds will be retained for use by ACT's Kitchen Cupboard. It also is possible for sponsors to designate an agency to receive their donation.

Recruitment is being handled by Kathy Eickwort, 257-3287, and Wilda Vanek, 257-7109. In charge of sponsor forms are Hortense Gibbs, 272-6762, and Ruth Young, 273-3086.

Bishop Clark Pays Visit to Hornell

Hornell — Bishop Matthew H. Clark conducted a confirmation at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, celebrated Mass at St. Ann's Church, and toured St. James Mercy Hospital during a visit to Hornell the last two days of October.

Bishop Clark began his visit of the hospital Wednesday, Oct. 31, by conducting prayers during the daily report over the hospital's public address system. Then, following a coffee break with Spencer Crow, hospital board president, and members of the administration and staff, he

Third 'Kinship' Home For Youth Opened

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Bath — Kinship Group Homes opened its third residential facility for youth Oct. 23.

An affiliate of Catholic Charities, Kinship is operating the Steuben County detention facility under contract with the county in the former Social Services commissioner's home on county property north of Bath.

The facility had been open from 1973 until 1978, when the couple who had operated it left. It was then closed, and after study by the county, Kinship was given the contract to run the program.

Kinship Group Homes, which has its office in Bath, operates two group homes, Kennedy House for boys in Perkinsville in the former Sacred Heart rectory, and Kinship House for girls in rural Tyrone.

The two group homes are set up for long-term living, which can be a matter of months or more. The new facility has a different purpose, Joseph F. Weider, executive director, explained. Average stay in the detention facility will probably be 10 to 14 days, he said.

Up to a maximum of six children can be placed in the

detention home. A "PINS" (Person In Need of Supervision) petition is first filed with family court, and the police officer involved then takes the child to the home. The child must be taken before family court within 72 hours of placement.

Children at the home will include those placed on complaints of parents, of schools, or those arrested for minor offenses, Weider explained. Also children who for some reason are without a place to stay, or who are victims of child abuse will be placed in the home.

The determining factor in accepting and keeping a child, Weider said, is the safety of the child, of the child's family, of those at the detention center, and of the community.

Weider explained that residents receive basic living requirements in a structured environment. The program includes individual and group counseling, recreational activities, and referrals to medical and psychiatric services.

Weider pointed out that many of the home's clients will return home, so the staff will "try to develop linkages between" the detention center and the youth service agencies in the county "so the child will have some type of supportive relationships in the community."

Weider noted that in agreeing to the contract with the Kinship, the county "has bought our philosophy" concerning helping troubled youth.

Before the home opened, detention facilities outside the

county were used. When the agreement to have Kinship run the home was announced, Sarah Curtis, Social Services commissioner estimated that spending \$71,671 to run the program for the year would give the county a saving of \$30,000 over using out-of-county services.

The Kinship philosophy includes family-type living with supportive relationships within the home, Weider said. Some youth programs, he said, deal with a child's behavior rather than what is causing it. "Running away may be the best protective" action the child knows, Weider said; it is important to discover why he or she feels the need to run.

A supervisor, Walter Briggs Jr., and four staff members operate the home. Briggs notes that he had the option of hiring a cook, but decided that it would be better if the residents prepared their own meals.

In fact, the residents do all the work around the house. For some, Briggs noted, it is the first time they have been expected to cook and clean, and they often find it gives them a feeling of "self-worth."

The staff's goal is to establish a "total atmosphere" of family living, he explained, an "atmosphere that they feel safe in."

The residents have a full schedule each day, and, Briggs said, go to bed tired each night. A two-hour session with a tutor each day and a supervised homework period constitute the educational program.

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