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CAMBODIA

St. Mary's Sister Going to Thailand

The plight of refugees from conflicts in Cambodia has drawn the attention and the action of religious groups throughout the breadth of the United States.

Just in one week, it was revealed that \$500,000 was given to Interfaith Hunger Appeal, a coalition of U.S. Catholic, Jewish and Protestant overseas development agencies, from a campaign mounted in the 231 supermarkets and department stores of the Stop & Shop Companies, Inc.

Six relief agencies, under the initiative of the executive director of Church World Service, relief unit of the National Council of Churches, intend to send \$10-\$12 million to Cambodia in the next few months.

The Synagogue Council of America has given a check for \$15,000 to Interfaith Hunger Appeal.

Three Baptist seminarians from Berkeley, Calif., will serve three months in refugee camps in Thailand.

Sister Miriam Therese

Winter, the former medical missionary who is known as the "singing nun," will serve the refugees in Thailand and Cambodia.

And, leaving her post in Rochester's St. Mary's Hospital, Sister Nancy Vendura, DC, will serve a three-month stint in a refugee camp in Thailand as a nurse.

The Bronx-born Daughter of Charity has been assigned by her provincial superiors in Albany to join a team which will leave for Thailand at the end of March or the beginning of April.

Sister Nancy, now working on a special project of quality assurance at the hospital, and ministering in community health, especially to the elderly in the Dutchtown area, quipped last week that she expects to pick up her mosquito netting in Bangkok, and that that is about the only solid data she has about her journey.

In Thailand, Sister Nancy will work with Catholic Relief Services units, Sister Mary Rose, her Albany-

based superior said last week.

Sister Mary Rose also said that, on an international scale, the provinces of the Daughters of Charity have been sending personnel to Thailand, to work with a variety of agencies.

Actually, Sister Nancy was to have been a member of a team which left for Thailand at the beginning of December, 1979.

A hitch in receipt of her passport prevented her from joining that team. She said that her passport finally arrived the morning after the team had left for Thailand.

Sister Nancy has been working at St. Mary's since September. She had been here previously, however, from 1976 to 1978.

Catholic Relief Services is carrying on its work among the Cambodian refugees with funds being collected in dioceses in the U.S.

The collection point in this diocese is:

Cambodian Relief
123 East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604



Adult Converts

Cardinal Terence Cooke, of New York, baptizes Mrs. Sara Tamas on Jan. 6 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Harlem as her husband, Herman, awaits his turn. The couple were among 27 adult converts baptized at the regular Sunday Mass in the church visited by Pope John Paul II during his recent U.S. tour.

All Family Groups Urged To Attend Conference

By John Dash

The diocesan Family Life Office wants families to attend the nominating sessions for the upcoming White House Conference on Families, but it is not pushing for a set of issues to be raised.

That assertion was made last week by both Frank Staropoli, chief of the office, and Terry and Sheila Holly, coordinators for diocesan participation in the nominating sessions, in the wake of a widely distributed report by Nadine Brozan in The New York Times last Monday.

Her report stated:

"Diametrically opposed

views on the role of government in family life have turned early nominating conventions for the White House Conference on Families into a test of strength between moderate and conservative factions.

"So far the conservatives, who have appropriated the 'pro-family' label for themselves, have won two stunning victories. The 'pro-family' forces are against ratification of the proposed equal rights amendment, legalized abortions, feminism in all forms and access for teenagers to contraception and sex education in the schools. They describe themselves as 'grass roots' and as religious."

Staropoli said last week that "it is important to get families there (nominating conventions), not to give them issues, not to put issues. We are urging attendance by all of the different family units in the diocese."

Two nominating conventions will draw diocesan attention early next month. The first is slated in Buffalo for Feb. 2, the other will be held a week later in Ithaca. Because of the way the state has been divided in the nominating plan, the Buffalo conference will draw more diocesan than will the Ithaca one, even though the latter is within the diocese itself.

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DPC to Meet

Waterloo. The Diocesan Pastoral Council's (DPC) next meeting Saturday, Jan. 19 at St. Mary's in Waterloo will open with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark in St. Mary's Church.

The meeting then will continue in the school, where members will discuss issues in preparation for the Ministerial Review Committee (MRC) budget study.

After hearing a report from the MRC in the morning, the DPC will work on the statement of diocesan needs used by the committee in the

afternoon. The members will be asked to make additions to four topics in the statement: women, evangelization, liturgy and family. At the November meeting, possible goals and projects in each field were raised, and now will be examined for inclusion in the Needs Assessment statement which is used by the MRC when they study the proposed budget.

The DPC also will discuss nominations to the diocesan Conciliation and Arbitration councils, and participate in an open forum with Bishop Clark at the end of the meeting.

Black Priest Assigned

A black priest has been found for St. Bridget's Parish, and there is a new leader for the Charismatic Renewal groups of the diocese, the Pastoral Office announced this week.

Father Dozia Wilson of the Albany diocese will become administrator of St. Bridget's. His predecessor there, Father John Forni, has been assigned temporarily to St. John of Rochester Parish, during the illness of the pastor, Father Vincent P. Collins.

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