

COURIER-JOURNAL

Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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Apalachin Parish Aiding Second Boat Family

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Apalachin — St. Margaret Mary's second "boat family" arrived Feb. 22 and has settled in with Joan and Ed Hanousek after a globe-girdling plane flight and a not-so-comfortable first night in the United States.

Ngo Dinh Be Thuong and his wife Ngu Yen Thi Phien and their children Ngo Nha Truc, a two-year-old boy, and Ngo Nha Chau, a six-month-old girl, are living in an apartment attached to the rear of the Hanousek farmhouse on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Easing their transition to their new land is Rose Truong, who with her husband Trung and their five children was the first boat family aided by St. Margaret Mary's. They arrived last July.

The family left Thailand and flew first to Hong Kong, then to Rome before a flight to New York. They arrived in New York Feb. 21, too

late in the day to get a flight to Binghamton. Although provision was made for them to stay the night in a traveler's motel, something happened and the family was left there without anything to eat, and as a result they didn't get any sleep. They didn't get to eat until they arrived in Binghamton late the next morning.

Rose Truong, who knew some English when she arrived, acts as an interpreter for the new family, who seem a little overwhelmed by the flurry of activity around them.

But it was typical of their reactions when Thuong, a Buddhist who knows only a few words of English, pulled out a chair and offered it to Father Elmer Schmidt, St. Margaret Mary's pastor.

When asked if the family was Catholic, Rose responded "not yet," noting that they are Buddhist, as her husband was before he was baptized Catholic. Rose notes that she had an aunt

who was a nun, and an uncle who was a priest in Vietnam, although both have died.

Through the interpretation the family's trip from Vietnam to the Thailand refugee camp was filled out.

The family had little money, and was unable to buy a boat or pay for their escape. But Thuong's brother knew how to sail a boat, and he was asked by a rich family to sail them to Thailand. His price was that he be allowed to take his entire family along with him.

The deal was struck last March, and 24 persons set out across the open sea in a boat approximately 30 feet long and 6 feet wide. Along the way it became necessary to get directions, and a gold earring the family had been saving for their daughter was used to pay the policeman who provided the information.

After they reached the



The hosts and their guests, from left, are Ed Hanousek, Dgo Dinh Be Thuong and two-year-old Ngo Nha Truc; Ngu Yen Thi Phien and six-month-old Ngo Nha Chau; and Joan Hanousek.

refugee camp, the family was separated, with Thuong's brother's family going to Australia. During the 10 months they were in the camp they had no meat, only fish.

A trip to the doctor after they settled in Apalachin revealed that the two-year-old is suffering from poor development caused by insufficient diet, and the baby has eczema.

Thuong and Phien will begin studying English immediately, with the help of classes two nights a week in the Union-Endicott school district.



Students Signing Up

Some prospective students for the pre-school program beginning next September at St. Casimir's School, Elmira, visited the school recently. Registration for the new program at St. Casimir's and St. Mary's schools, and for the continuing program at Our Lady of Lourdes, is tonight, Wednesday, March 5 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at St. Patrick's School, or at the three schools during the day the rest of the week. Above, from left, are Brian Moffe and his mother Diane; Sister Yvonne Blind, St. Casimir's principal; Michael Chimileski and his mother Kathy, and her niece, Kathryn Watkins, who also will be part of the initial class.

Registration Scheduled

Corning — Registrations and open houses for new students, including those entering kindergarten, at Corning Catholic Schools South and North have been scheduled.

At Catholic School South, the open house occurred March 4. Registration will be Monday, March 10, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and Wednesday, March 12, from 12:30 to 2:30 and 7 to 9 p.m.

At Catholic School North, open house will be Thursday, March 6, at 9:30 a.m.; babysitting will be available. Registration will be Tuesday, March 11 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and Thursday, March 13 from 12:30 to 2:30 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Lenten Programs Under Way

Ithaca — Immaculate Conception Parish is conducting a variety of Lenten observances again this year.

A weekly Rosary for Peace will follow the 8 a.m. Mass on Tuesdays, led by Mary Camobreco. Stations of the Cross and Meditations will be each Friday at 7:30 p.m., and a special liturgy followed by a dish-to-pass supper has been planned for the feast of St. Joseph, March 19, at 6 p.m. in the school gym.

"Project: Enter In and Update" is a course being taught Tuesday evenings by parish associates Father Peter Clifford and John DeSocio. The series began Feb. 5.

Beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing each Wednesday during Lent is a course "An Introduction to the Spiritual Life," led by Sister Elizabeth Hughes, parish

pastoral assistant. The classes are at 9:30 a.m. in the school.

Scripture class began Thursday, Feb. 21, and will continue each Thursday during Lent in the school at 10:15 a.m. Instructor is Father Bernard Carges, pastor.

Also included in the Lenten programs is a television series "Changes." The programs, presented on channel 13 on the Tompkins County cable system, are being shown both at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Tuesdays March 11, 18 and 25.

"Changes" is described as a Christian Exploration of mid-life. The series was coordinated by psychologist Msgr. John Gorman of Notre Dame University and Loyola College, and Brother James Zullo, FSC, director of the Christian Brothers Counseling Center in Westchester, Illinois.

Women Alcoholics Need Improved Self-Image

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — The need for female alcoholics to receive special attention was the subject of a workshop titled "Women and Alcohol: An Update" at Park Church Feb. 21.

Featured speaker Dr. Sheila Blume, state Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse director, noted that three programs are responsible for getting many alcoholics into treatment: employment referrals, driving while intoxicated charges, and jail brought on by public intoxication.

But those programs are "basically male programs," she said, and involve relatively few women.

Approximately 150 persons, primarily professionals and predominantly women, heard several speakers during the day-long seminar sponsored by the Southern Tier Central Women's Task Force and the Alcoholism Rehabilitation Program.

Another speaker, Andrew Zadany, Guidance and Counseling Program supervisor for Corning Glass Works, noted a problem he has discovered in his programs to treat problems such as alcoholism among workers. He noted that the female alcoholics referred to his program are usually referred by female supervisors; male supervisors are less apt to refer their female employees, he said.

In light of the problem, Dr. Blume, a psychiatrist, asked of

the female alcoholic, "How do you reach her?"

One thing that shouldn't be done, she said, is wait for her to "reach bottom." She said she "hates" that common expression among alcoholism counselors: "What they're really saying is that they don't know how to help that person," she said.

She answered her question by discussing those factors she feels work to keep female alcoholics out of treatment.

The first, she said, is denial, which is an "unconscious defense," and should not be confused with lying. Denial is important to the drinking alcoholic, she said, because if she admits she is an alcoholic, she'll have to stop drinking, and she doesn't think that's possible. Dr. Blume compared the reaction of a drinking alcoholic to being told that she can stop drinking with the reaction those present would have to being told they could stop breathing.

The second factor is fear, noting that "the known, however bad, is often less fearful than the unknown." She noted three things that can help overcome fear: a counselor, appropriate reassurance, and a role model.

The third factor is shame.

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This is especially important for the female alcoholic, she emphasized. Historically drinking in women has been connected with immorality, she said, pointing out that female alcoholics are more apt to be secret drinkers or drink alone because of society's view of women who abuse alcohol.

Motivation is required for an alcoholic to stop drinking, she said, and there are several types that will work in the short term. But "ideal motivation," when the person doesn't drink because they know that is best for themselves, is the longest lasting.

In order for a woman to achieve ideal motivation, she said, it is necessary for her to feel she is worth it. Many questions such as "Who am I?" "Am I worth it?" and "Do I deserve to be happy?" face female alcoholics, she said.

Establishing a positive identity is a key to recovery for many female alcoholics, she concluded, and because of society's views of women and of women who are alcoholic, it is important for a recovering female alcoholic to find a group, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, where she can receive the support she needs.

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