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Photo by Martin Toombs

Susan and Richard Bieri with their daughter Amanda,

AMANDA

She Makes Danger Of Salvadorean Adoption Worth It

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Berkshire — Three years ago, when Susan and Richard Bieri decided to adopt a child, there was no way they could have known that the effort would find them flying into a war-torn country, and avoiding an artillery shelling by only a matter of two hours.

The Bierls, married in 1967, decided to try to adopt a child, and contacted several agencies. But after more than two years waiting to get on a waiting list, the St. John the Evangelist, Newark Valley, parishioners decided to look into a foreign adoption.

It was while visiting a friend in Poughkeepsie that they met a family which had adopted a child from El Salvador, a country which has been wracked by civil strife which has killed several thousand persons.

The Bierls decided to try for a Salvadorean baby, and began the lengthy effort to get all the clearances necessary for such an adoption. A key to the process was the scheduling and success of an appointment at the American embassy in San Salvador, at which time the visa for the baby, identified beforehand as Amanda, a girl abandoned by her

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U. of R. to Establish Chair Of Catholic Thought, History

The Newman Community at the University of Rochester has donated its house and land at 561 Mt. Hope Ave. to the university.

The net proceeds from the sale of the property are to be applied as a first step toward endowing a Chair of Catholic Thought and History. The university will seek additional funding to support the establishment of the Chair.

Father William Lum, Catholic chaplain, explained that when the Newman property was purchased for the Catholic parish at the university in 1963, neither the Interfaith Chapel on Wilson Boulevard nor Wilson Commons, the campus center, had been built.

"Today," he said, "the chapel provides the chaplains and the community with a beautiful place for worship. In addition, other rooms in that building provide space for meeting rooms, offices and social gatherings."

"The opening of Wilson Commons in 1976 and the significant efforts made in recent years by the residence halls staffs to improve social life on campus have made the Newman Center's role less important than before. Meanwhile, the cost of maintaining the property has become increasingly burdensome."

As a result, Father Lum said, the community's Parish Council membership conducted a study of what should be done with the property. They concluded that the Newman Center was no longer essential and that



The Newman Center at 561 Mt. Hope Ave.

proceeds from the sale might be better used to endow the Chair at the university.

Paul Hunter, dean of the university's College of Arts and Science, said, "I am delighted to endorse the negotiations started by my predecessor, Kenneth E. Clark. We are grateful to the Newman Community for this expression of support for courses in Catholic thought and history."

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, in a special statement, said, "I applaud the University of Rochester's effort to establish a Chair of Catholic Thought and History in its Religious Studies Program. In our pluralistic society, an intellectual and critical approach to a religious tradition

benefits all members of society

"I also applaud the Newman Community . . . (which) turned the very difficult decision to dispose of the Newman Center into the very creative and generous decision to donate the Newman Center to the university as the first step toward establishing" the chair.

"Our hope," he added, "is that the university now will succeed in finding generous donors to endow the Chair of Catholic Thought and History. I offer my encouragement and personal support."

The additional funding, according to Dean Hunter, "is to come from new and non-competitive sources." Funds

will not come from current university budgets or from other university or diocesan programs, he said.

Under the Newman Community agreement with the university, the Chair will emphasize undergraduate studies in contemporary Roman Catholicism or in the role of Catholic theology and practice within medieval literature, history, sociology and ethics.

The university launched its Religious Studies Program in 1968 in response to student requests and has developed a number of courses and interdepartmental offerings on various aspects of religion. Occasional courses in Catholic thought have been offered since 1974.

U.S. Aid Used to Violate Rights, Eyewitnesses Say

By John Dash

"The government of El Salvador is violating the human rights of its people with U.S. military aid; and the U.S. government is involving its own people in the violation of human rights in El Salvador," by sending that military aid, Ivan Escobar said last week. Escobar is an agronomist from El Salvador who had previously worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development's agrarian reform project.

Escobar, and Sister Margarita Navarro CSJ, a missionary in Central America, were in Rochester representing the Human Rights Commission in El Salvador.

They were the guests of the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission which is calling for a halt to all U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

Escobar, interviewed last Saturday, said that the U.S. has been involved in El Salvador's politics since 1932, when it supplied machine guns to the country following a coup d'etat.

The U.S. had previously signed an agreement in which it would refuse to supply military aid to any government raised as a result of a coup d'etat, Escobar said.

Sister Navarro said that former President Carter, despite his words championing human rights, "has been every bit as contradictory in his actions."

She said a U.N. resolution denouncing human rights violations in El Salvador and guaranteeing the life of the present Archbishop of San Salvador was voted on Dec. 15. The U.S. was among the abstainers on the resolution vote.

"There is no moral explanation for the U.S. abstention," Sister Navarro said.

It is the position of the International Justice and Peace Commission that "innumerable testimonies clearly place the responsibility for the systematic violence and real control of the government in the hands of the armed forces."

In a statement issued last week the commission expressed its "concern that U.S.

economic and military support of the government is contributing to the killing of innocent people and placing our nation on the side of injustice, repression and violence."

The commission's statement urged that diocesan write to President Reagan and congressional representatives to stop military aid to the government of El Salvador.

The arrival of Escobar and Sister Navarro also marked the beginning of a week of solidarity with the El Salvador people, called by a number of peace and justice groups in the area.

As part of the week, a slide show, "A Country in Crisis,"



ESCOBAL

has been shown at various locations. Tomorrow the program will be presented at noon at the YWCA S, 175 N.



SISTER NAVARRO

Clinton Ave., Room 123; and at 7:30 p.m. at RIT's Photo School Industrial Seminar Room.