

Haitians Given 10 Days To File for Asylum Here

By John Dash

Thanks to the marvels of telecommunications a young man who can barely understand English sat in an office 22 stories over Rochester while his attorney discussed him with a judge seated in Buffalo, all translated by a Creole-speaking interpreter in New York City.

The occasion was a "procedure" which brings 19-year-old Jean Claude

Refugee Update

Desardouin, a refugee from Haiti, closer to his courtroom struggle to be recognized as deserving of political asylum. If he fails, he will be deported to the country from which he fled by boat in 1981.

In the procedure last week, Desardouin's volunteer attorney, Judry L. Subar of Geiger and

Rothenberg, attempted to delay official action by a number of maneuvers, all of which were denied by Immigration and Naturalization Service administrative Judge Gordon Sacks in Buffalo.

Judge Sacks ordered Subar and Desardouin to file a petition for asylum by Sept. 29.

In last week's action, a telephone amplification system was used, linking three different locations. The device was used to obviate the necessity of Judge Sacks having to come to Rochester. It had been decided earlier that the Haitians' hearings will be in Rochester.

Desardouin is the youngest of several Haitian refugees once incarcerated in Ray Brook Federal Penitentiary, now under the protection of the United States Catholic Conference in Rochester.

All of Rochester's Haitian refugees went through the procedure last Friday in the offices of Nixon Hargrave Devans & Doyle. The volunteer attorneys are coordinated by Ragna Henrichs of that office, assisted by Joan Countryman.

The Haitians' cases have generated considerable interest in the area. Bishop Matthew H. Clark first called public attention to their plight in 1981.

At that time a number of Haitians were fleeing the dynasty of Haiti's Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, in the hopes of entering the United States at the time of the wave of Cuban immigration.

President Reagan issued an extraordinary order to the Coast Guard to shoot the Haitians before they landed on Florida shores.

Those Haitians who landed were rounded up and put into federal detention. Judge Eugene Spellman in Miami ordered the Haitians released a little more than a year ago, and established procedures to ensure their receiving a fair hearing in immigration court.

The government, which promotes the idea that the Haitians are "economic" refugees and are therefore unworthy of U.S. citizenship, appealed the Spellman decision and received a stunning blow when the appellate panel, in Atlanta, Ga., not only upheld the Spellman ruling, but added it found the action of the government was racially biased.

Blessed Sacrament

The Blessed Sacrament Parish human development committee will present the film "Assignment: Life," 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 21 in the school hall on the corner of Oxford Street and Monroe Avenue. Also featured will be speakers Dr. Barbara Fredericks of the Wilson Health Center and Nazareth College and Ms. Joanne May, a chemistry teacher and head of the local Right to Life education department.

simultaneous and will be led by Norman Bouchard, Beth Lenegan, Father Mierzwa and Alan Lukas, respectively. All are from Buffalo.

CHILDCHURCH has met with phenomenal success throughout the Buffalo diocese since its inception in 1981. More than 2,500 have participated in a CHILDCHURCH over the past two years, according to the Liturgy Office. The workshop is geared to all who work with children's liturgy -- priests, religious, educators and parents. Registration is \$4 per person and each participant will have the opportunity to hear the main presentation, attend a workshop and review a resource display of material.

Further information is available from the Office of Liturgy or the Office of Religious Education, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, (716) 328-3210.

CHILDCHURCH Planned At 2 Diocesan Sites

The offices of Liturgy and Religious Education are bringing CHILDCHURCH to the Rochester diocese. A concept that promotes children's participation and prayer in worship, CHILDCHURCH will put on sessions from 7 to 9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5 at Holy Ghost in Rochester and Wednesday, Oct. 12, at St. Catherine in Ithaca (these are the correct dates; an error was made in the calendar sent to all parishes).

The workshop will begin with a talk by Father Ronald Mierzwa of Buffalo, "Look to the Children." Father Mierzwa is one of the developers of CHILDCHURCH. His presentation will be followed by four workshops, Creative Celebrations of the Word; Prayer and Children; Liturgy Planning for/with Children, and Music for Children's Liturgies. The workshops will be

St. Rita

West Webster — A host of activities is on the agenda for St. Rita's Society this year. A tureen supper and white elephant sale was held last night to raise funds for the convent cupboard. Later this season, a Newcomers/Oldtimers Night will be held, a Christmas workshop of "Gifts from Your Kitchen"

is slated for November, and a Christmas party in December.

Society officers this year are Mary Brown, secretary; Alma Rinasz, president; Trish Engert, vice president; and Maureen Morehouse, treasurer. Father John Reif is pastor of St. Rita's Church.

Sisters Council

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very active communicating with Sisters in the diocese, calling on the Sisters to face participating in the Oct. 22 rally, in a day of prayer and fasting on the 21st, and an evening of prayer and education on Oct. 20.

"We're hoping, I think, our whole context would be, to join others — not just Sisters — to create a peaceful world.

"We are specifically working in that direction," she said.

Sister Susan commented: "As Catholics we share our bishop's concern, but we speak, too, as women who call the world our home. We want to be sisters, not enemies, to the people in that world. The rally on Oct. 22 is one way for us to say just that.

"There have been, and will

be, many opportunities to take a stand for peace, to act in public in a way that says where one's heart is.

"The invitation to be at Sampson (State Park, the actual rally site) to listen and pray and hear with the others there is just one opportunity to which we are saying a common 'yes!'"

At the council's request, the social justice committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph is sponsoring an evening of prayer and education, beginning with Mass at 4:30 p.m., Oct. 20, at the SSJ motherhouse, 4095 East Ave. The mercy and justice committee of the Sisters of Mercy will coordinate bus reservations for anyone interested in attending the Oct. 22 rally. Information is available by calling 288-2710, the Sisters of Mercy motherhouse.

Msgr. Simonetti

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which was opened in October 1967.

The monsignor is survived by his sister, Mrs. Corinne DeMatia; a niece and nephew, Marlene and Rino Pappano, and great nieces and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. John

(Mary) Pappano and Maria Pappano.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked those wishing to make donations to the Annunciation School Scholarship Fund.

Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.



Sister Regis Celebrates 20 Years

Sister Mary Regis Straughn, RSM, was the guest of honor at a surprise party last Sunday at Mt. Carmel School Hall marking her 20 years of service to the inner city parish. More than 100 parishioners and friends gathered including 20-month-old Kevin Wright, above. Right, Sister Regis holds a plaque given from the parish, presented to her from Father James Hewes, pastor.

Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

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