



Sesqui Display

Through the first week of May, the city of Rochester sponsored a sesquicentennial exhibition in the basement hall of the Community War Memorial. Among the booths containing various artifacts dating back to 1834 were three organized by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy, and St. Mary's Church, downtown.

Cuban-Haitian Adjustment Bill Praised by Bishop Bevilacqua

Washington (NC) — The Cuban-Haitian Adjustment Act of 1984 is a "just, carefully crafted and long-awaited solution" to the plight of a small group of refugees, Bishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Pittsburgh testified before a House subcommittee May 9.

The legislation, introduced by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N.J., would grant permanent residence to about 125,000 Cuban and about 31,000 Haitian boat people who arrived in the United States in 1980 and 1981. These refugees were

classified as "entrants" and have been repeatedly promised that their status would be regularized so that they would be eligible for benefits such as being able to bring family members to the United States.

Bishop Bevilacqua, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Migration, testified before the immigration, refugees and international law subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee and urged passage of the act, H.R. 4853.

The bishop said that the small group of Cubans and Haitians who arrived after others were granted entrant

status should also be regularized, "since they in many cases suffered far more than those who happened to arrive in the United States before the formation of this 'entrant' status."

Of particular concern to the U.S. Catholic Conference, Bishop Bevilacqua said, "is the group of over 2,000 Haitian refugees who were detained for up to 18 months in isolated locations around the United States as part of a detention program that was universally condemned and that is now universally regretted."

"These Haitian boat people have been subjected to repeated harsh and discriminatory treatment since their arrival on our shores. Now is the time to find the courage and compassion to recognize their suffering and the equities that they have accumulated in our communities and grant them permanent resident status," the bishop added.

Church Groups Make Commitments To Sponsor Indochinese Refugees

Ten church groups, three individuals and a group of volunteers have committed themselves to sponsoring a total of 15 Indochinese refugee family units, figures released last week by the Rochester United States Catholic Conference office revealed.

In that group, the Trappist Abbey of the Genesee in Piffard has already met and exceeded its commitment by sponsoring two Khmer families.

Guardian Angels Church in Henrietta and Paul Kukavka of Palmyra have both committed themselves to sponsoring two family units each. Guardian Angels now awaits its second

family, and Kukavka awaits a Khmer family in October.

Other sponsors include Kha Linh Ky, St. Thomas More Church, St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls, the Church of the Assumption in Fairport, Corpus Christi Church, Holy Spirit Church in Webster, the New Apostolic Church (Fred Born, pastor), St. Stephen's Church in Geneva, Michelle Durand, a group of USCC volunteers, and St. James Church in Trumansburg.

Persons and groups interested in the resettlement program have been asked to contact James Delaney, USCC refugee resettlement officer, (716) 546-7220.

Author to Address Sexuality In Interfaith Chapel Program

Author Joan Ohannesson will speak on "Body and Soul: Reclaiming Our Sexuality," 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 23 at the Interfaith Chapel of the University of Rochester. The program is jointly sponsored by the diocesan Commission on Young Adult Ministry and the U. of R. Newman Community.

Ms. Ohannesson is the author of "And They Felt No Shame," a book which explores the stories, questions and needs of young adult Christians. She said that contemporary 18 to 35-year-olds are searching for sexual integrity. Her thesis is

that sexuality and spirituality are meant to be inseparable. "A body is not something we have," she wrote. "It is something we are. Thus our bodily energy and spirituality are inseparable. It is her intent to 'reclaim sexuality as a gift within the Church, and to see our body as the mode for transmitting all our gifts,'" a diocesan release said.

The mother of four produced "Women's Gifts: Ministry as Self-Definition," a film strip which won the prestigious Gabriel Award.

In addition, Ms. Ohannesson is consultant to the Archdiocesan Board of Young Adult Ministry in San Francisco, and is a staff member of Directions, a ministry discernment program for young adults.

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The Open Window

Neophytes And Their Mystagogia

One of the words used most frequently in this connection is the word "reflect."

What that means is a looking more deeply into or a "resting" in the tremendous mysteries which they have experienced in the previous weeks. It would be a bit like (not entirely) reflecting on a marvelous trip which one had just taken. One goes through all the pictures and brochures and recollections of the journey in order to deepen one's impression of the pleasure and knowledge and experience acquired.

In much the same way the neophytes are asked to reflect on the Gospels and other readings of the Easter time so that their understanding of Christ's saving acts and power He now brings to them may be more deeply understood and appreciated. They also need to reflect on the Eucharist as the celebration of their relationship to the risen Christ.

In the meantime, the rest of us are asked to do precisely the same thing so that we might not only become deepened in our relationship to the risen Christ, but may also help them to share in that deepening process so that it becomes ever more important and more deeply affects us in every aspect of our faith experience.

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