COURIER-JOURNAL

Sanctuary Arrests Said Attempt to Quiet Critics

The crackdown on people harboring Central Americans is an attempt "to silence the refugees and the truth about U.S. foreign policy," said Sister Darlene Nicgorski, one of 16 people indicted Jan. 14 for smuggling illegal aliens.

Father Anthony Clark, who was also indicted, agreed "I believe the refugee -situation is threatening the present policy of the U.S. government" in Central America, he said in an interview following the indictments.

"Instead of seeing refugees as people with human rights who are running from a tragic situation, the response is to discredit them," he said. Immigration and Naturalization Service classifies almost all Central American refugees as economic, not political, refugees.

In the Jan. 14 sweep two priests and three nuns were among those charged with

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tions.

aiding and transporting illegal aliens, and more than 50 illegal aliens were arrested. The indictments were the toughest move by the government against the sanctuary movement, a churchsponsored network of people who shelter Central American refugees.

Duke Austin, an INS spokesman in Washington, said INS was not making a special effort against the sanctuary movement but U.S. Attorney A. Melvin McDonald said the indictments stemmed from a 10-month-long investigation. Chief Prosecutor Don Reno, a special assistant U.S. attorney in Phoenix, said the investigation included "con-fidential informants" and two undercover immigration agents.

Sister Nicgorski, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis, said, "I think the government fears are moun-

telling the truth, not just hiding. It's a sad day in our country when our government oppresses church workers for carrying out their work."

Sister Nicgorski said she was told she faces seven or eight felony charges and seven or eight misdemeanor charges. "I've got enough years to last me till I get to heaven -- and then some."

She said she was in Detroit for a religious conference when the attorney for the Phoenix Diocese informed her of the indictment. She said she was told that INS agents in Phoenix had gone through her possessions, taking her passport and letters and going though her photo album.

Father Clark said, "I don't know why they think the clergy is conspiring against the government.... No one I know in the sanctuary movement is anti-American. They are people who hear the cry of people who are running from a tragic war that has divided their country.'

Father Clark, a priest of the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, who lives in Nogales, Ariz., said most Americans do not understand the problems in Central America and how much Central Americans love their homelands and want to return home when the fighting is over.

Besides Father Clark and Sister Nicgorski, others indicted included Sisters Mary Waddell and Ana Priester, both Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Father Ramon Dagobereto Quinones of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, a Mexican citizen.

Renny Golden, a founding member of the Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America, called the

ting because the refugees are crackdown "an ominous sign." She said if the sanctuary movement doesn't suspend its activities she expects INS to step up the indictments and arrests even more.

The Chicago task force coordinates the network of sanctuary workers. Ms. Golden said that network is made up of 166 places of sanctuary, including about two dozen Catholic shelters, with about 70,000 people involved.

Many of the sanctuary workers have vowed to continue their efforts despite the crackdown. A rally Jan. 15 in Phoenix supporting Sister Nicgorski drew about 300 people, according to Ms. Golden.

At St. Rita's Church in Detroit a Salvadoran family of four that has sought refuge at the church since July plans to stay on, according to Father John Nowlan, pastor.

"There's no doubt in my mind or theirs that if they returned to El Salvador they would be executed. This really is life and death stuff," Father Nowlan said. "Things are getting worse in El Salvador. There's bombing of villages and burning of bodies so there's no body count."

The Benedictine monks of the Weston Priory in Weston, Vt., another Catholic group involved in the sanctuary movement, plan to continue sheltering a family of seven Guatemalans.

Brother Philip Fronkiewicz, a priory spokesman, said the family considered applying for political asylum but decided against it because they thought they would have little hope of receiving it and because they felt it would mean betraying the people who helped them in Guatemala.

"Part of the form asks that the applicant indicate where he lived or worked before coming to the United States," Brother Fronkiewicz

said. "A copy goes to the consulate of the country of origin. We feel it's a death list. It's too great a risk; other people's lives are at stake.'

Also, INS asks for documentation of persecution, a requirement almost impossible to fulfill in places where "most people don't even read and write.'

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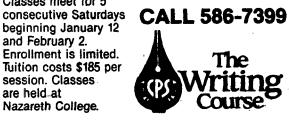
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DEATHS Sister Carlina Mahoney SSJ

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 19 for Sister Carlina Mahoney of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Carlina died Jan. 17, 1985.

Born in Geneva, Sister Carlina was a member of St. Francis de Sales Parish. She graduated from St. Francis de Sales High School in 1917 and entered the congregation that same year.

She received her professional education at Nazareth Normal School, and Canisius College in Buffalo. She also did further graduate work at Catholic University of America and the University of Notre Dame.

She was permanently certified to teach in the secondary schools of New York State.

She taught elementary school at Holy Apostles from 1919 to 1925.

In that year she was

assigned to teach at Nazareth Academy, where she remained for 30 years.

She taught at St. Agnes High School for two years, but returned to Nazareth where she continued teaching until her retirement in 1974. Sister Carlina moved to her congregational infirmary in

1981. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Charles (Nora) Camphell of Geneva, and by several nieces and nephews.

She retired to Villa Walsh

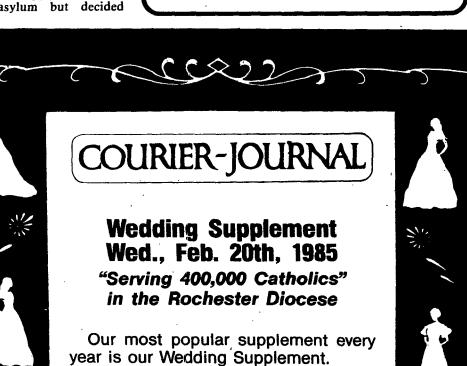
Sister Virginia is survived

by three sisters, Mrs. Lucille

Benedetto and Mrs. Grace

in Morristown 14 years ago.

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Other activities will include sledding, hiking, movies, scavenger hunts, singing and dancing. The camp is open to boys and girls, ages 11 to 16. Fees

dancing at 9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Columbus are \$175 for the full package, Center, Barrett Drive, or \$160 if participants bring their own equipment. Jack Jarosinksi's Hy-

Registration forms can be obtained by phoning Camp Stella Maris, (716) 346-2243, daily between 9 a.m. and 4. p.m.

equipment, lessons, lift tickets and transportation to and from Swain Ski Center daily. A Polish Holiday has been scheduled by the Knights of Columbus Trinity Council

The program includes full

room and board, and ski

Sister Virginia Romano MPF

was celebrated Jan. 21 for Sister Virginia Romano of the Pontifical Institute of the Religious Teachers Filippini, who died Jan. 19, 1985.

Sister Virginia had been stationed at St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Watkins Glen in 1963.

She died and was buried in

Mass of Christian Burial Morristown, N.J., her institute's provincial headquarters.

Sister Virginia, a native of Hazelton, Pa., received the habit in 1931 and made her final oblation in 1934. She served not only as a first grade and kindergarten

Campanella, both of New Jersey, and Mrs. Theresa Cushinotto of Pennsylvania; and many nieces and nephteacher, but also in the institute's mission parishes. ews.

Father Fergus Sheehy CSB

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 23 for Father Fergus Sheehy of the Congregation of St. Basil who died Jan. 20 after an illness of three years.

Father Sheehy died at the Basilian Fathers Residence in Toronto, and was buried from St. Basil's College there.

Father Sheehy for many years had taught and had served in administration at Aquinas Institute.

He was born in 1906 and ordained in 1935.

In 1937, on the occasion of the Basilian assumption of duties at Aquinas, Father Sheehy was assigned as a teacher. In 1946 he was named principal of the school's freshman division on La Grange Avenue, a post he held to 1950.

He served at St. Michael's College School in Toronto, 1950-51; and at St. Thomas High School in Houston, Texas, 1951-61.

In that year he returned to Aquinas as its principal and

as superior of the local Basilian Fathers Residence.

He served as principal until 1964 and as superior until 1967

He was then assigned to Assumption High School in Windsor, Ontario, in which place he remained until 1982, when his health failed.

A colleague said of him last week: "All who knew Father 'Ferg' remember his wit, his friendliness and his great community spirit."

More weddings are performed in the Catholic Church than in any other.

This section, in addition to appearing as a supplement in the issue of Feb. 20, is distributed to couples attending Pre-Cana insturction throughout 1985.

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