

Refugees

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Trunfio recalls stopping to visit the Meigs Street house and finding tiny white handkerchiefs drenched with tears hanging everywhere. A note Anna left read "this house so vast I feel single." The overall sense of despair broke her heart, Trunfio remembers, and she decided to invite Anna to her own home.

When she talks about what her American friends have meant to her, Anna's voice trembles and her eyes fill with tears. "They are both like my mother," she started to say, but couldn't continue.

Anna remains determined to do everything possible to bring her fiance to the U.S. and frustrated that in three months she seems to have accomplished nothing. Trunfio points out that she goes to school each day, paints and sews, is learning English and adapting to life in general, but her expectation — that she would get a job right away and earn money to bring her fiance here — has been exposed to a harsh dose of reality. Although she is a college graduate with a chemistry degree, Anna has not been able to find a job that might give her a sense of purpose and keep the time from hanging so heavily on her hands. "I wish for a job which brings satisfaction," she said.

and especially not for their children. For that reason, they have been willing to risk everything. In Anna's case, "everything" includes the possibility that she may never see the man she wants to marry or her family again.

In her case, no sponsor had been arranged when she arrived last April because the agency that coordinates resettlement through the U.S. Catholic Conference had expected her more than a year earlier. Temporarily, the Brighton parish agreed to house her in the apartment they had prepared for San and Do and their sons, which was not yet occupied.

past year and a half. He has also served on the Catholic Youth Organization board as a member for six years and president for one, and has been a member of the Catholic Charities board. A former member of the board of Becket Hall, Wynne has long been active at the parish level as well.

Brault has worked with social ministries staff on past projects and on the International Commission on Justice and Peace. Sister Elizabeth is a former pastoral assistants' program coordinator and will continue as chaplain for Craig Developmental Center.

For both Anna and San, the language barrier only begins to describe the difficulty of the adjustment they must make. With television and movies as the basis for their expectations of the U.S., neither recalls being surprised by much.

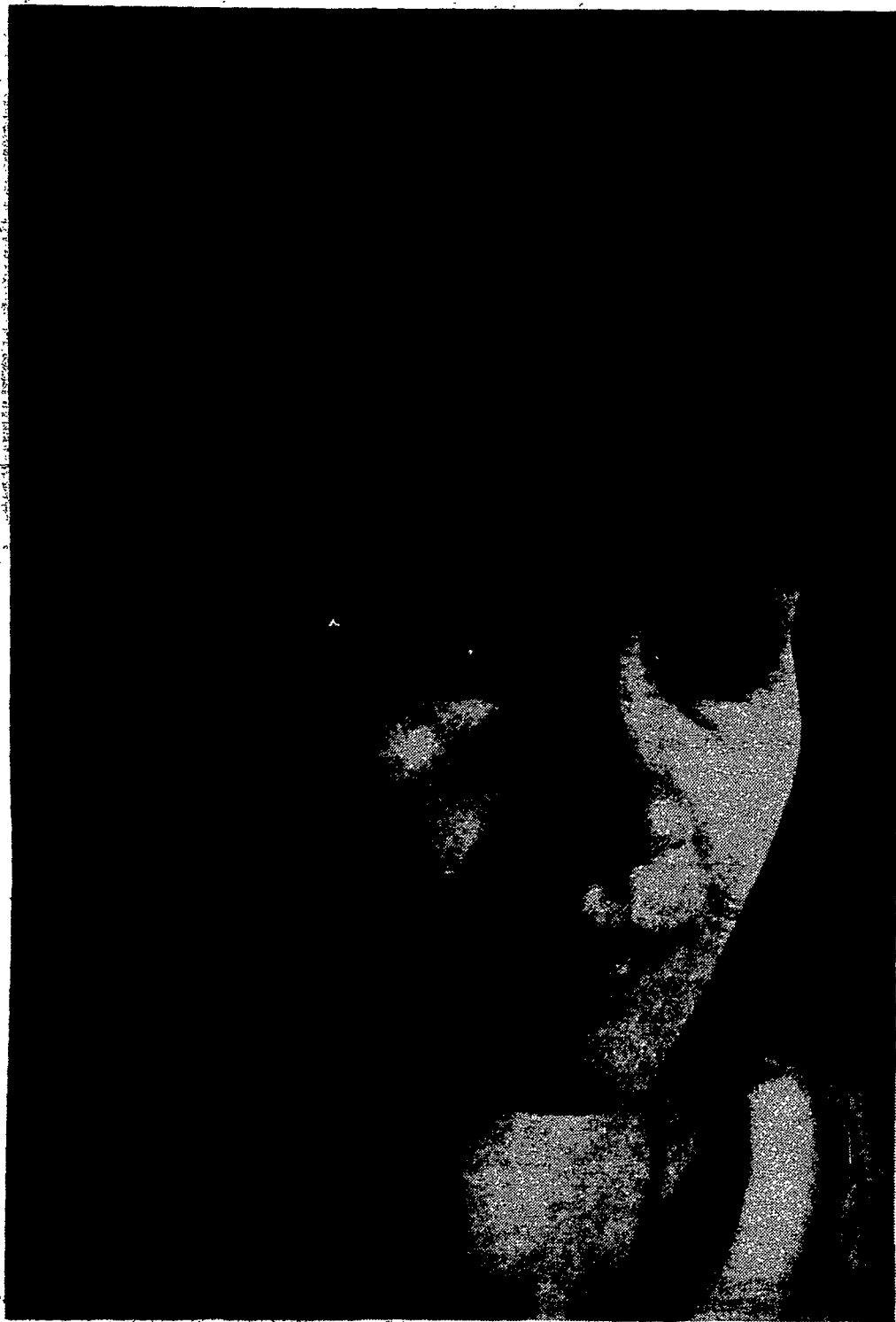
San finds it hard to meet people and make friends when people drive so much, but Anh has tackled this problem for his mother by bringing home anyone he sees who looks Oriental. "He's the friendliest kid I've ever seen," Trunfio said.

Both still fear reprisal for those left behind should they speak out against their countries. San has had no word from her family in the three months she's been here. Anna speaks to her fiance by phone every week and writes almost daily, but many of her letters don't arrive and those that do are often missing photos or pages. When her connection suddenly goes bad, she suspects a third party is listening.

To listen to their sponsors describe Anna's or San's ordeal is to recognize how deeply they share their triumphs and defeats, and how much richer their appreciation of God's gifts has become.

"You know you take this country for granted and you know that things are not right in parts of the world," Trunfio said. "But when you're actually dealing one-on-one with a person and you're dealing with their emotions and seeing what they have lived through, it's just incredible. When you talk about freedom you don't even begin to tap the feelings behind it. You go outside and don't have to worry that your neighbors are spying on you. All we do is complain about the mail, but they send pictures and don't receive them — they can't say what they want to in a letter ... for fear of repercussions."

Although her words are simpler, Anna's meaning was no less profound. "Here we have freedom ... it is okay."



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Fearing possible reprisals against her family and fiance, this Rumanian woman requested that her real name not be used.

Diocesan Catholic Charities

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been, where we are and where we're heading" by the first meeting. With two regional offices in place and a third beginning on a strong past record,

"The framework for us on issues should emanate upward through the grassroots of the regional offices and downward the same way," Wynne said.

Wynne has been active on the Office of Social Ministry's renewal committee for the

Diocesan

Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointment:

Father Gerard J. Gali from associate, St. Margaret Mary, Rochester, to associate, St. John the Evangelist, Humboldt St., Rochester.



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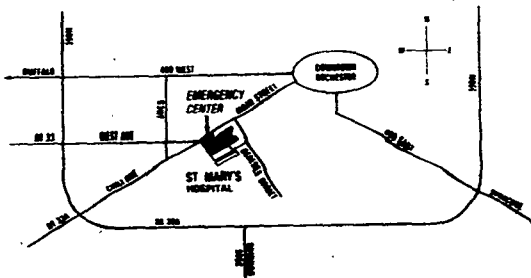
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