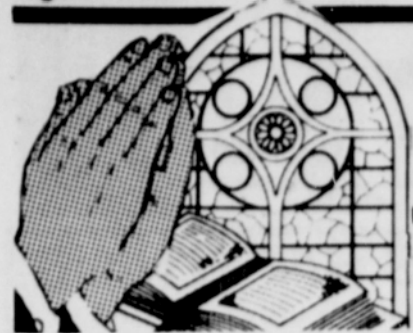




RELIGION

Send notice of your church activities and events to:
Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland OR 97208

Churches band to oppose death penalty

Many religious bodies in Oregon have banded together to express their opposition to the use of deadly violence as a means of crime prevention. The action was taken when it appeared that a measure to reinstate the death penalty in Oregon may be placed by initiative petition on the November 6th ballot.

The first public event sponsored by the new organization will be a mass gathering in Salem on Sunday afternoon, July 29th at 3:30 p.m. All Oregonians opposed to the death penalty are invited. The gathering will take place at the Gazebo in Willson Park immediately west of the State Capitol. In case of rain, the event will be held at the First United Methodist Church across the street.

Following the gathering, participants will walk to the Oregon State Penitentiary, one and a half miles east. A brief closing and dismissal will be held just across the street on the lawn owned by the

State Highway Department. Walkers are encouraged to bring their own signs and banners.

Much of the original planning for the activities of the Religious Community for Equal Justice has been in the hands of an ecumenical committee composed of The Most Rev. Kenneth Steiner, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Portland, Jenny Steward of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, Rollie Smith of the United Methodist Church and Julie Mikalson of the Church of God (Anderson).

It will not be known until mid-July whether the capital punishment measure will actually be on the November ballot. The Salem gathering will take place whether or not the Secretary of State certifies that sufficient signatures have been obtained to place the measure before the electorate. For more information, call Paul Wickman, 227-3186.

Gospel concert slated

An outdoor concert by The Catholic Life Singers will be given on Saturday, July 21, at 2:00 p.m. at The Grotto, The National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother.

The Catholic Life Singers, a choral group of 15 members from Spokane, Washington, have toured Canada and the Western United States singing gospel music for

parishes and church groups.

The Concert, carrying the theme of "With Joyful Hearts," is sponsored through Catholic Life Ministries. It will be held outside in the Grotto's park-like worship area and is free and open to the public. For further information call 254-7371.

Missionaries convene

The 9th Episcopal District Missionary Institute will convene at the Cosmopolitan Hotel, 1030 N.E. Union Avenue, July 16-20, 1984. The evening services will be held at Allen Temple C.M.E. Church, 4236 N.E. 8th Avenue, at 7:00 p.m.

The theme for the institute, which is comprised of the California Conference, the Alaska/Pacific Conference (Portland), the Arizona/New Mexico Conference and the Oklahoma Conference is demonstrating Christian unity as a way

of daily life.

Dr. Marie T. Rowe, Director of the Institute; Alzena DeDelveau, Co-Director and president of the Alaska/Pacific Conference Missionary Society; Rev. E.J. Edwards, host pastor; Rev. William G. Mitchell, host presiding elder and Bishop Nathaniel Lindsey, Bishop, invite the entire Portland Christian community to come and help make this the most rewarding spiritual experience ever.



The ninth annual Vietnamese Celebration of Freedom at The Grotto on Saturday, July 8th, included the traditional Vietnamese crowning of the Blessed Mother. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

St. Andrews gives sanctuary to refugees

by Robert Lothian

The Freedom Train, a car caravan bearing Central American refugees from Tucson, Arizona, to sanctuary in Seattle, rolled through Portland on July 4th.

The caravan left Tucson on June 27th and stopped in cities along the way to protest U.S. immigration policies and gather public support for the national sanctuary movement.

A crowd of well wishers waived and cheered as the caravan of 15 cars and trucks, bedecked with posters and American flags, pulled away from St. Andrew Catholic Church on the morning of the Fourth, after an all-night stop.

St. Andrew's, Portland's first sanctuary, is sheltering a 23-year old Salvadoran, Fernando Flores. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) classifies the refugees as illegal aliens. Harboring them is punishable by a jail sentence of from two to five years and a \$2,000-\$10,000 fine. Several sanctuary workers were arrested recently in Texas and Arizona.

Arriving in Seattle on the afternoon of the Fourth, the refugees were welcomed by Mayor Charles Royer, Roman Catholic Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen and 500 supporters.

The refugees will live in sanctuary at University Friends Meeting in Seattle and East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, the 149th and 150th churches to join the national sanctuary network. Seventeen Central Americans now live in sanctuary in Seattle.

In consideration of relatives still in Guatemala, the refugees, three adults and two children, wore bandanas to hide their identities at stops along the way.

Mario, a 25-year old Guatemalan medical student, was asked what the Fourth of July meant to the refugees at a press conference at St. Andrew's. "For us, it is very significant because we feel the full freedom that Americans feel," he replied.

He said he left Guatemala after receiving death threats for organizing a student theatre group that dramatized the problems of farmers, Indians and union workers.

Alfredo, 23, said he and his 21-year old wife, Maria, and their two children, Elizabeth, 3 and three-month old Anita, left their village in the Guatemalan state of Quiche after three of his sisters and four of his nephews, one a baby, were burned alive by soldiers.

A peasant farmer, he said he also made hand-sewn regional costumes to make a living.

A Guatemalan Indian woman who resides in private sanctuary in Portland, talked about the problems faced by the refugees in a foreign culture. "We bring our tortures with us...we are suffering in this country as well," she said. "We aren't used to receiving help for free, we are used to working."

She said the Indians of Guatemala don't understand why they are being persecuted. Many can't read or write, she said, and have no civil rights.

"We are here for vital necessity," said Mario. "In the first place, to save our lives and the second place, because we know that historically, the U.S. is a democratic country."

He said he felt secure in the caravan and guaranteed of a safe stay in the U.S. by the sanctuary movement. "If I were in the U.S. alone, I would be very afraid of the immigration."



Guatemalan refugees address the press on recent stop in Portland. The four were part of the Freedom Train sanctuary caravan on route to Seattle. (Photo: Kris Altucher)

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Members of the community took part in making the wedding ceremony and reception of Kamau and Amina Sediki a very colorful affair. The African union took place Saturday at the Mason Lodge on N.E. Russell. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Attention
I, as a customer of the Chevron station at 3515 N. Lombard & Wabash St., would like to know if anyone is having problems with attendants or management of this station. Will you please call: Cliff Swain at 283-2777 After 6:00 p.m. Thanks.

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