

# Dale City Parish Struggles

By Janis Johnson

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For the past six weeks, about a dozen parishioners at Holy Family Catholic Church in Dale City, Va., have each spent an average of six hours a day helping one Vietnamese refugee family resettle in America.

"I don't know how we could have possibly done this on our own," said John Beckman, a parishioner who volunteered to house the

eight-member Huyng Van Trong family for five weeks.

"I know of a sponsor who paid \$500 out of his own pocket for his refugee family, and I know I couldn't have done that," added Beckman, who has an eight-member family of his own.

The Holy Family parishioners have clothed Trong's family, located jobs, placed the children in schools, provided daily transportation, collected household furnishings, organized English lan-

guage classes, opened bank accounts and paid for everything.

They have exhausted most of the \$1,500 they raised in a special collection last month for initial expenses and they have sent over \$600 in receipts to the U.S. Catholic Conference for reimbursement.

The Catholic Conference's migration service will pay up to \$350 per refugee for resettlement costs from a federal subsidy. The parish,

which is committed to helping Trong's family for up to a year, will hold other special collections as needed.

Last week Trong and his son, Trung, began working for \$2.25 an hour at Valle's Steak House in Springfield, but the parishioners had so much difficulty rounding up transportation to work that the men had to quit and begin lower-paying jobs nearer home at Hardee's in Dale City.

At Hardee's they are earn-

## to Aid Vietnamese Family

ing \$2 an hour each for a 30-hour week, and the Rev. R. Roy Cosby, pastor of Holy Family, is employing them for the same wage at the church for another 10 hours until they can find higher-paying jobs.

For emergencies, Holy Family will have to hold bake sales or car washes, said Peggy Beckman. "We are not a very rich parish. Father Cosby is lucky if he can pay the bills each month," she said.

Mrs. Beckman, who is expecting her seventh child at the end of July, said she has done something with or for Trong's family every day since they arrived here May 26.

While she has been running errands with the refugees, other parishioners have been cooking casseroles and salads for the Beckman family, doing their laundry, making trips to the Vietnamese market in Arlington for rice and babysit-

ting at the Beckman home.

Now that Trong and his family have moved into their own home, the Beckmans try to visit them each day and other parishioners also check in frequently.

Barbara and Bill Pivarnik and up to a dozen others devoted about two weeks to getting Trong's three-bedroom house rented by the parish ready for occupancy. The church will pay the \$230 per month rent until Trong

can manage the payments himself.

Yesterday, Mrs. Beckman learned Trong's family needs between \$2,000 and \$3,000 worth of dental work.

The Prince William County social services office gave her the impression that asking for federal money for the dentist bills would "reflect poorly on the U.S. Catholic Conference and be interpreted as a breakdown in sponsorship," Mrs. Beckman said.