

Parishioner Profiles



Dot and Loc Nguyen

They have 5 children.

Loc Pham and **Dot Nguyen** have known each other every day of their lives: they were both born December 31, 1947, in the same small village, Tan Quoi, Viet Nam.

In Viet Nam, Dot became a legend of a soccer player, so good that a General exempted him from military service so he could play in the regional league. Even today when his family visits, Dot is remembered for his abilities. But being a sports star wasn't enough when Dot was 17 for him to marry Loc Pham. They had always loved one another, but her parents thought Dot too poor. So Dot left for 6 years to earn money at the U.S. Embassy in the city and Dot worked two jobs besides playing soccer. They married in 1970 and began their family.

The family followed Dot's nephew to America in 1989 and life was a struggle. They didn't know the language and were socially isolated. Dot bought a sewing machine and supported the family for two years with it. To go anywhere meant walking, often miles, such as from Stratford to Black Rock. He started fishing and caught shiners. Finally, he got a job at U.S. Surgical, making surgical knives and needles in North Haven, where he stayed for 18 years. He got his driver's license. In 2007, Dot and Loc Pham became U.S. citizens. "That was a happy day," Dot said with a smile.

He fished now, not for himself, but his church back in Viet Nam, where Loc Pham's family still lives. The shiners he trapped, he sold, and over 15 years, sent more than \$10,000 to his former church.

In early 2021, Dot was one of the first person's stricken with Covid and sent to Bridgeport Hospital in isolation. His case was so severe, Dot was administered Last Rites and his family called with a report of imminent death. He survived. But he faces health issues. "I look great outside," 75 year old Dot said, "But inside, not so good." Retired, Luc Pham and Dot garden and watch their grandkids.

At Holy Name, Dot passes the basket at 10 o'clock mass. "I say thank you to people when they give," he said, and added with a broad smile, "They love me."

A self-described "quiet guy," **John DiPasquale** has been a parishioner at Holy Name for 65 years. He is 91.

John was born in New York City. John's father got a job in Bridgeport when John was 9, and the family moved. John came to Stratford by way of "marrying the girl at the bottom of the hill" from Holy Name. His late wife, Gloria, was a lifetime parishioner of Holy Name. They had many happy years together. They had one child, who died.

John worked at Avco, and spent 25 years in construction. He enjoyed playing basketball.

In addition to weekend and Holy Day masses, John attends services in the chapel.



John DiPasquale