

Boy Lauds Home Life, Training, Nuns' Care At St. Joseph Villa

Saint Joseph's Villa opened welcoming doors wide for me at a time when I needed a home and loving care. That was six years ago. Since then it has done much for me.

The Sisters were put there to take the place of our parents and they succeeded well in doing that. At one time or another, each boy, and there are twenty-four of them, is given special attention by Sister when he needs it. Even though I may have thought Sister was correcting me because she liked to be mean, it really was for my good.

Spiritual Guidance
Father Hanna, is the Chaplain there, and he was always a great help to the boys and to me. Whether it was a question of a spiritual or a physical need, he always had the solution. He tried to prepare us for the long difficult road that lay ahead by his many talks and sermons which he gave at Mass. I would never have been able to get along without his help and spiritual guidance.

Prayers, Mass, and the other sacraments were important too. The Sisters took care of this, also. They got us up each Sunday and holiday to go to Mass. They tried to cultivate in our minds the importance of Mass and the Sacraments after we had graduated. We said morning and night prayers daily. We also went to Confession twice a month.

Our physical needs were well-cared for too. We had a well-planned menu which included all the foods that were necessary for our growth and health. There were two nurses and a doctor right on hand in case any accident should happen that could not be taken care of by the Sisters in the cottage. We had plenty of clothing to wear. Clean socks and little things that proved very important in our daily lives were well provided.

Christian Living
We cannot forget the item, Christian living. I was taught to be polite and courteous at the table. The Sisters stressed the important point of eating the right way. We were taught to be helpful to each other which plays an important part in our future. Being clean and looking tidy was also an important feature taught. Obedience was one of the most im-

portant things featured at the Villa. The Sisters tried to instill in our minds, the importance of being obedient. I know we will all strive in future years to be a credit to them.

Cooperating with each other was necessary. This was especially true in getting the work done. This way everything was done quicker and easier with each boy doing his share. There is always lots of work to be done in a big cottage.

Family customs were the same as in our own home. There was a television set and radio for our own pleasure. We could always hear baseball games and other stories. Also, we all went to church together just like one big happy family. There was a movie every two weeks for our own entertainment and as far as I

can remember most of them were pretty good. Most of us got along pretty good together. You make friends fast down there. Each year we went to the circus and camp. This seemed a lot to me when I was small. This was always thrilling and action packed.

Educational facilities at St. Joseph's Villa were top. The teachers were great. Books, papers, and all the things we needed for school were provided. The way each thing was explained to us in any subject, was excellent. If we needed special help in any one subject, we always received it. School didn't seem too important to me until I was in the seventh grade. Then it began to get interesting. A school regents diploma is very important. We were helped in that too. Every

week we were given tests in Math, Algebra, and Social Studies. In that way we were prepared for our regents.

We all liked athletics. There was plenty of space for that at the Villa, such as football field, baseball diamond, basketball court, and other athletic equipment. The graduates and some of the older boys got memberships from Sister Clara Marie in order that we might go to the Columbus Youth Association and play basketball and go swimming. We had our own basketball team and we did very well. In fact, we won the championship. There was a man named Joe O'Brien who organized a football team. He gave us lots of help by bringing sports figures who gave us tips in these sports. He obtained uniforms for us

and brought teams to play with us. All in all the athletic department was well taken care of.

And last but not least, the Sisters and Father Hanna prepared us for the life ahead. They did this by stressing all these important points that I have mentioned. Training habits in Christian living, education, protection from sin, prayers, Mass, cooperating with our fellow men. All these were important steps in preparing us for future years.

Nothing I can say will give the full picture of all that St. Joseph's Villa has done for me. It is my prayer that God will do what I cannot. I ask Him daily to bless all those who have a part in making St. Joseph's the wonderful home it is.

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CYA Slates Day Camps During Summer

With summer vacation not so far away, the Columbus Youth Association staff has turned its attention to its special summer Day Camp Program. This special phase of the program has consistently grown in size and popularity year after year. The C.Y.A. now accommodates close to 300 youngsters throughout the summer vacation period.

Day Campers enjoy such activities as arts and crafts, hiking, fishing, outdoor cooking, trips to parks, ballgames, swimming and diving, parties and chartered trips. These are educational trips to many of the historical centers of Rochester, plus trips to ice cream plants, candy factories and dairies.

Parents' Programs
Parents also enjoy a part in the program when they visit the campsites and participate in the existing program events. There are parents' nights, parties for the youngsters and an overnight encampment for the senior group of campers. Some parents accompany the campers on the overnight encampment and assist with the preparation of meals.