

Villa, Home for Children

COURIER-JOURNAL
Thursday, April 22, 1965

In the eyes of children the world is a lovely place in which to live but some children view the world through dark colored glasses. It is the work of the staff at St. Joseph's Villa to remove these dark glasses and to bring sunlight into the eyes of these children.

The question is often asked, "What is the Villa?"

It is a child care institution for dependent, neglected and delinquent children under the supervision of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Who are these children? They are boys and girls who will look, act, and talk like any child in your neighborhood if given the right opportunity.

They are often called problem children but are actually children with emotional problems.

For some, the problem is parents who are separated and the children are torn between love for mother or for father; for others it is inability to keep up with work in school, leading to a behavior problem. It has frequently happened that until they came to the Villa some of these children had not known what it meant to eat three meals a day or to have clean clothes. It has been at St. Joseph's Villa that they have found not only material goods but also the feeling that they are individuals and loved as such.

Perhaps we can see the Villa through the eyes of an eight year old boy called Danny who was recently admitted.

Danny has been in the second grade in a city school and was quite a behavior problem. Upon investigation, it was discovered that Danny usually came to school without any breakfast, was unkempt and was becoming a neighborhood problem. His mother and step-father both worked and had little time for Danny. Literally, "He was on his own" and no one cared what he did.

A referral to St. Joseph's Villa was suggested and arrangements were made for Danny to visit there. Danny was soon ac-



Home is where your best friends are.

cepted at the Villa. All children fear separation from home and parents and Danny was no exception. Upon his arrival he was quickly put at ease by a social worker who assured him that he would always be there to help him.

He took him to his "new home" where he met two Sisters and many other children with whom he would live. Everyone seemed so happy to meet him.

Naturally, a little boy's first night away from home is filled with tears, but the strain and anxiety of getting ready to come soon helped him off to sleep. When he awoke the next morning, Sister was standing at the foot of his bed, holding some new clothes for him and giving him a big smile.

The thrill of new clothes brought him to his feet in a hurry. But how could Sister know what size he wore? To his surprise, they even fit. Soon a call came for breakfast. In the dining room there was a special place for Danny at the table. Here he met a lady who was dishing up some cereal for him and was smiling as she was introduced to him. Everyone seemed so happy. Danny could not understand how these boys could be so jolly away from home.

During breakfast, the boys tried to prepare Danny for school. Here he became frightened. He didn't like school. What they did not tell him was that the other Sister who lived in the house with him was going to be his teacher. On his way to school the boys introduced

him to a priest who was their Chaplain and cared for their spiritual needs.

He told Danny to come in to see him anytime. Everyone was so kind to him but he still had school ahead of him.

He was so surprised to see the Sister from his house at the school door that he forgot he didn't like school. When the bell rang to start school, everyone became quiet, stood for prayers and started school work. Their morning consisted of Religion, Reading, Arithmetic and Spelling just like his other school, but there were only a few children in the class and Sister could give each child all the individual help he needed. To his amazement, it was soon time for dinner.

On the way back to his house, one child explained to Danny that his house was called a cottage and that two Sisters lived in each cottage to care for the boys. One Sister was the cottage mother and the other Sister, a teacher, was also on hand to help. At the cottage a hot dinner was ready and then he went into a big living room with the others to play.

What has Danny realized from his stay at the Villa? He now understands why boys in his cottage are happy. They are living with adults who care. Every child has a purpose in life and Danny had been shown his purpose. Perhaps through Danny's eyes we can see a small part of the work being carried on at the Villa.

A child-only really grows up for those by whom he has been loved.



Lay's Role in Catholic Schools To Be Discussed

The involvement of lay people in the progress of Catholic education will receive a complete examination at the Lay People's meeting scheduled for Apr. 23 in New York City in conjunction with the National Catholic Education Association convention, under the sponsorship of the Catholic school superintendents.

A full morning session will be devoted to this general subject with such people as Mr. James Donohue of Baltimore, recently appointed co-director of the NWC Department of Education, discussing the function of Catholic school boards, parental views of Catholic education and the school and the community, among others.

In the afternoon, three separate sessions will be devoted to Federal Aid, Shared Time and the Status of the Lay Teacher.

These sessions are not designed for professional educators. Father Patrick Shanahan of Rockville Centre said. Father Shanahan, who along with Father William Roche of Rochester, is planning the sessions maintains that "these are intended, rather, for those lay people who are working in home-school associations, school boards or even on their own to further the work of Catholic education in all fields. To that end, we have attempted to bring a number of expert people together to discuss a variety of subjects that we feel are of vital concern to the laity who have an sincere interest in the Catholic school and who wish to aid in its progress."

Rochester representatives of the lay steering committee of the Diocesan Schools will take part in this session.

WILLIAM BALL, general counsel for the Pennsylvania Catholic Welfare Conference will take up the subject of Federal Aid in one of the afternoon sessions along with Mr. Charles Tobin of the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee.

To discuss the status of the lay teacher, Dr. Ann Wallace

who is perhaps the first lay principal of a mixed Religious lay faculty at St. Paul's school in New York, has been scheduled for another afternoon session.

The third session of the day devoted to a particular subject is that featuring Father Olin Murdick, superintendent of schools for the diocese of Saginaw, Mich. Fr. Murdick's subject is "Shared Time—Does It Work?"

For the full day's session, lay people are being invited from all-over the country by school superintendents, leaders of home-school groups and others. The purpose is to obtain information and guidance in this area and to have a mutual sharing of experiences and discussion as to how best to use the talents of the layman as applied to the Catholic schools.

The meeting will be at the New York Hilton Hotel from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Parish Choir At Festival

Holy Rosary parish choir, directed by Donald Menninger, will present a concert of contemporary sacred music at the Rochester Festival of Religious Arts, Sunday, May 2, at 8:15 p.m.

The Festival will be held April 23 to May 2 at Rochester's Central Presbyterian Church, 50 Plymouth Ave. North, and includes exhibits of religious paintings, photography, sculpture and presentations of musical and dramatic programs.

Exhibit hours weekdays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 12 noon to 9 p.m.

122,916 Assisted Caracas — (NC) — Venezuela's Catholic charities has aided 122,916 persons in the first three months of the present year—distributing food and extending other types of aid.

No Papal Visit To Philippines

Manila, (NC) — Pope Paul cited international tension as one reason why he cannot visit the Philippines this year.

He added that preparations for the fourth session of the ecumenical council, also, prevent him from coming here to take part in the observance marking the 400th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity in this Far Eastern nation.

The Pope gave his reasons in a letter to President Diosdado Macapagal, who had invited him to come here.

Dated Feb. 15 but not released until April 14, the letter said: "Nothing could give us greater pleasure than to see for ourself the magnificent flowering of Catholicism which has taken place in the Philippines. The sole bastion of Christianity in the Far East, the Philippines have always cherished and fostered the traditions and truths brought to them by the first evangelizers, and made them fruitful in numerous social and educational institutions and in the fervent Christian life of the people."

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