Come, Sing a Song of Joy

By THE MISSION SINGERS

Nearly everyone knows by now that Miguel Rios' Song of Joy is borrowed and adapted from the conclusion of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Schroeder, the pianist in Peanuts, has finally conquered and Lucy is probabley walking around with her chin on the ground.

About three years ago, a 6-year-old-boy in our neighborhood was getting ready to start first grade. The school gave him a kind of achievement test and, based on the results, they determined he was retarded.

Meanwhile, we were working to get this boy into another family outside the neighborhood. His family life at that time was very poor, and the mother—the only parent around—was not able to take care of the boy and his older brothers and sisters.

We found a family that would be able to give the boy the love and encouragement he needed. Now three years later, this "retarded" child is one of the brighest boys in his class in a normal elementary school.

You might ask what this story has to do with Song of Joy. Sure, both the story and the song are happy, but what's the point?

The point is this: the thing that helped the boy do the best he could is the same thing that can make Song of Joy real. For when the boy lived in our slum neighborhood, his whole environment told him he was stupid. His family, his friends, his neighbors, his teacher in kindergarten all told him he was stupid. And so he was.

MIGUEL RIOS

But when he was treated differently, when he was loved and encouraged, then he was given credit for the brains he hed, he responded in kind. He was expected to do as well as he could, and he did.

This same idea of "self-fulfilling prophecy" can work with Song of Joy. "Then sing a song of joy for love and understanding." Though the dream Song of Joy speaks of seems farfetched for our troubled times, it doesn't have to be considered impossible.

A lot of people do consider it impossible, though.

A lot of people are bitter. Some older folks see no hope for the next generations because of their degeneracy. A lot of younger people are convinced that their future has ben effectively blocked by unaware adults.

What all these people fail to realize is that bitterness is an impersonal disease. A person who is bitter is blind to people, both friend and foe. A bitter person is angry at the world, and he will attack both the people who try to hurt him and the people who try to help him.

Song of Joy can be medicine for that disease. The song doesn't answer all the different questions about life, but at least it prophesies a realistic goal. And like the 6-year-old boy who wasn't really retarded, we can choose our future and make it real.

"Sing, sing a song of joy for men shall love each other."

(Catholic Press Features)

13 to 19

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"Tommy doesn't have charisma himself, but his allowance certainly does!"

THE MUSIC BAG

'SONG OF JOY'

Come sing a song of joy for peace shall come, my brother.
Sing, sing a song of joy for men shall love each other.

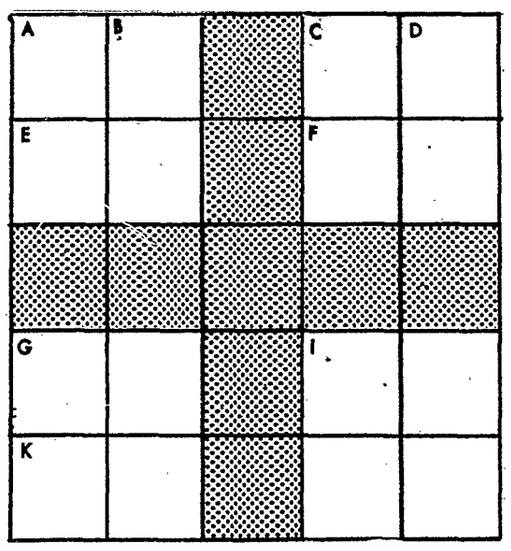
That day will dawn just as sure as hearts that are pure are hearts set free.
No man must stand alone with outstretched hand before him.
Reach out and take them in yours with love that endures forevermore.
Then sing a song of joy for love and understanding.

Come sing a song of joy, of freedom tell the story.
Sing, sing a song of joy for mankind in his glory.
One mighty voice that will bring a song, that will ring forevermore.
Then sing a song for love and understanding.

(Published by Barnegat Music)

Mini-Math

By Sam Stein



HORIZONTAL

A —9
C —4
E 0
F —3
G +4
I +2
K —1
L —1

VERTICAL

A —6
B —3
C —3
D —4
G +3
H 0
I 0
J +1

Answer on Page 10B

INSTRUCTIONS: Mini-Math is worked like a crossword puzzle. Use numbers 1 through 5 only. For example: (A) Horizontal may call for +3 in two squares, which may be (+4 and —1), (+5 and —2), (+ 1 and +2), (—2 and +5), etc. The same with Verticals.

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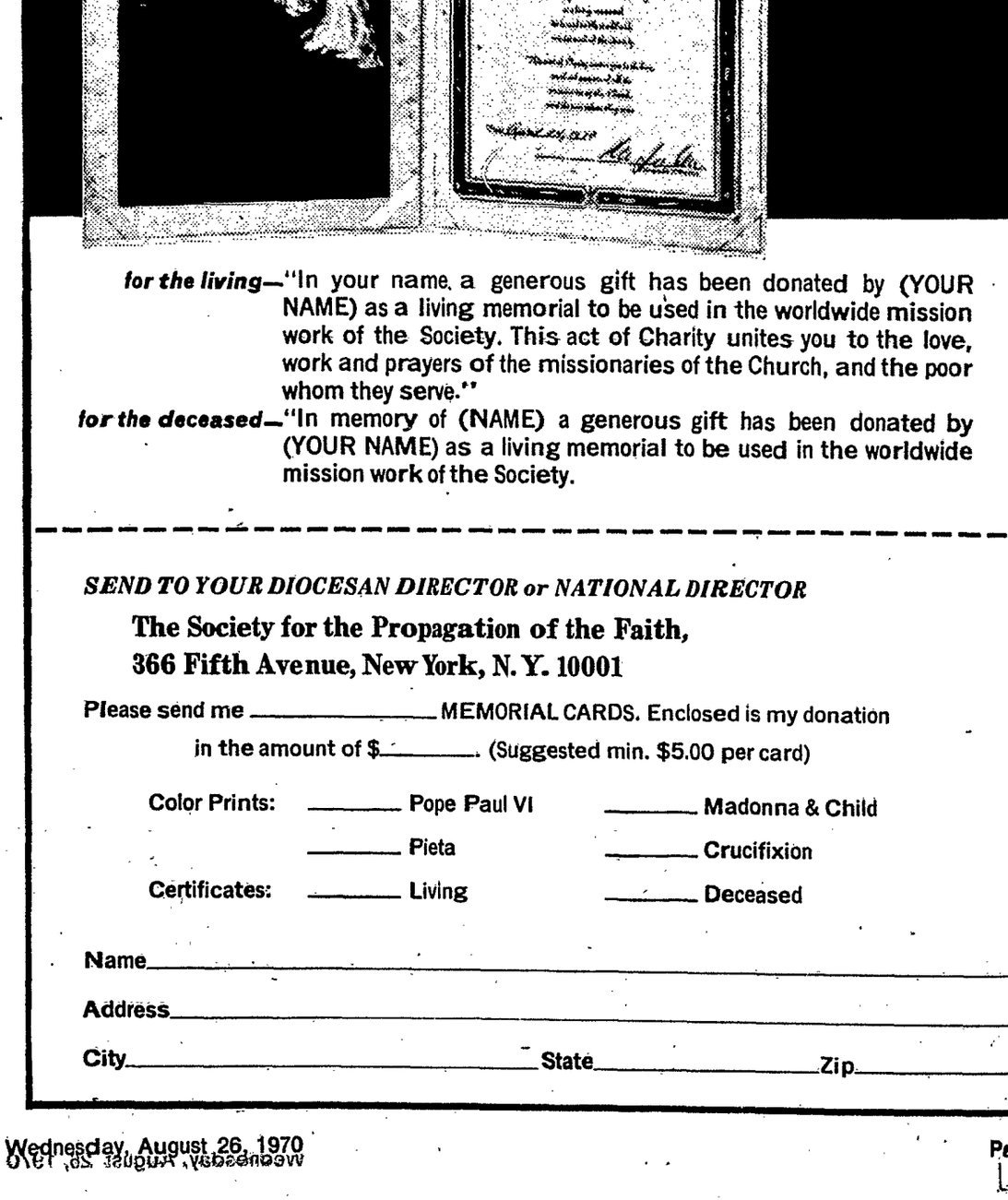

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