

A Home for Miguel

By CECELIA VIGGO

Time is running out for Miguel.

For the past two years, this 14-year-old has been in Rochester State Hospital. The hospital staff feel that he is ready to try to adjust to the outside world.



Girl of the Year

Josey Desino, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James DeSino of Clifford Avenue, has been named CYO Girl of the Year in Los Angeles. The award was made on the basis of her work in four areas—cultural, social, spiritual and athletic. Miss DeSino is a graduate of Nazareth Academy.



FR. PAUL J. CUDDY

On The Right Side

Q. Last week you were indignant about music in the Church. Have you further ideas about where the problems of Church music lie?

A. Yes. First, in the vandals who have buried the inspiring Latin Masses and hymns. Second, and probably the widest in their bad effect, in many Sunday missalettes. These missalettes provide some hackneyed Protestant hymns, some second rate Catholic songs, some musical drivel. They largely omit the best of Catholic hymns. They omit Latin hymns completely, in flat disregard for the directions of the Church.

Q. How do you account for the missalette inadequacies?

A. I can only guess, Mr. John Bartell is organist in St. Anne's Church in Hornell, a church which seats 1,000 people. He is a skilled organist, a fine person, has a fine wife. Recently I said to him: "John, you play the beautiful music of the Church as interludes. But you play those third-rate hymns for the people's singing. They just won't sing them!" Like most of us humans when faced with a less than flattering observation, John bristled: "They are the only hymns printed in the missalette. And as for Catholic hymns, they have so wide a musical range, they are hard for a congregation to sing." Remembering how well our people of Clyde used to sing, I said: "Oh, come on, John!" "Well, you tell me what they are that are singable!" He caught me off base and I couldn't recall even one! But that night I picked up the May Homilectic and Pastoral Review and read an ad for an album of Catholic Hymns.

What were they?

A. They included: O God of Loveliness, Adoramus Te, Hall Holy Queen, Ave Maria, Panis Angelicus, Soul of My Saviour, O Lord I Am Not Worthy.

But Miguel has no home to return to. And no real family.

Miguel was born in Puerto Rico in 1957; his mother, severely emotionally disturbed herself, came to New York State in 1963.

Since his arrival on the mainland at the age of six, Miguel has been in institutions—first, St. Joseph's Villa, and now the State Hospital. He has never known family life, or the love and security of parents.

What Miguel needs, commented Mrs. Diane Lenzo, of the Catholic Family Center, is someone to visit him at the hospital, to gradually establish a rapport with him, with an eye, perhaps, to foster parent relationship in the future.

But Miguel needs a special kind of person. His childhood, spent in institutions, coupled with the utter misery and instability marking his infancy, have taken their psychic toll.

He is very disturbed, and is sometimes prone to outbursts of temper, for which he receives medication.

But those who know Miguel insist that his recovery is possible. The boy is very intelligent, and his behavior has shown improvement. Miguel's younger brother and sister are now happily placed in foster homes; they show no sign of emotional illness. It's very likely that Miguel's problems are

neither hereditary nor incurable.

What if Miguel does not receive the friendship and support he needs? He will have to remain in the hospital now, and perhaps, for the rest of his life.

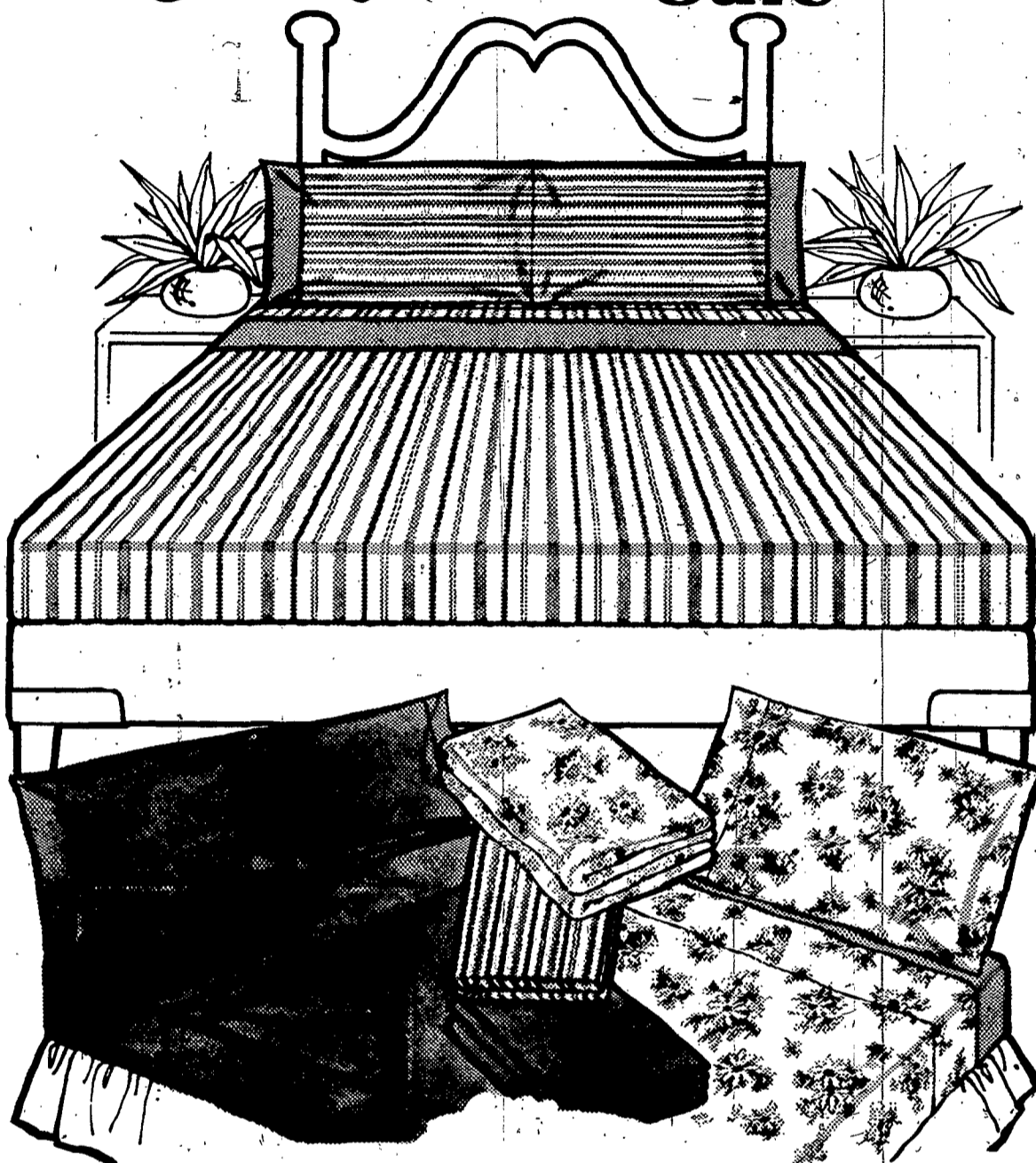
The boy is rapidly becoming a man. If no one took a chance on the child, it's not likely the adult will fare any better.

For further information, contact Catholic Family Center at (716) 546-7220.

Utican to Head Order of Brothers

Bruges, Belgium—(RNS)—Brother Harold Boyle, a native of Utica, N.Y., was elected superior general of the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier during the order's 20th general chapter here.

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