



Dinner time causes a scramble among the boys, who are always hungry.



St. James typifies the residences at this cottage-plan institute.

A clear day in autumn makes St. Joseph's a beautiful place to visit.

Wandering among the fallen leaves, one sees children going to classes, playing football during lunch hour, taking part in organized recreation or just playing happily.

Most people, if they have heard of St. Joseph's "the Villa," as its staff says, assume that it is an orphanage, which is not true. Children who come to live at the Villa have had to leave their families because of a multitude of problems.

The typical child at the Villa has been placed here for group care, says Sister Ann Vincent De Dittorio, director, because of "rejection by his parents, or because they are preoccupied with problems of their own. Sometimes the period of placement gives the parents time to pull their own lives together."

Most of the kids are 6 to 12 years old, and many suffer from emotional disorders and school problems. At the Villa meets with a battery of resources.

Its success is often astounding.

Text and Photos

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Life at the Villa



Candied apples are a specialty of the cooking class for girls that Mrs. Jay Travers, counselor, conducts.



Nazareth senior Sue Martin does her student teaching at the Villa by giving individual speech therapy.



Social worker Robert Werth works with one boy, using play therapy.