

**Children Who Wait**

**Frances — Playful, Trusting**

Among The Children Who Wait is Frances.

She is waiting for a home, perhaps yours.

The children all have mental, physical and/or emotional handicaps. Some are from minority races; others are of mixed race. Some are siblings who should be kept together. And some of them are older — the age range is pre-school through early teens.

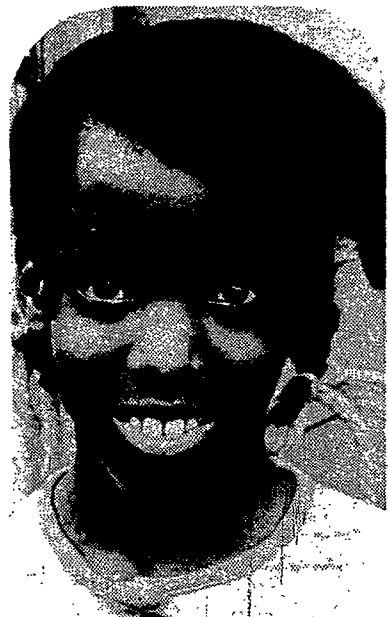
The Council of Adoptive Parents says:

"Frances is a 10-year-old black girl. She is usually calm and does not get upset.

"She returns plenty of love to anyone who shows an interest in her."

"She is good, warm, playful and trusting.

"Frances is a slow learner and attends a special class. Frances loves children for company and a



permanent home with children would be ideal for her."

Adoptive patterns have changed in recent years. Once there were many healthy infants available for adoption. Today,

familiar faces. Neighbors, friends in casual clothes looked at home.

The choir began to file in, the men in short sleeved sports shirts, the women in slacks and sweaters, added to the feeling that this was home away from home. Even the sight of the plaid guitar straps reinforced the notion.

The Mass began and with it the music. The sound of everyone joining in, timidly first, then almost boisterously had the same effect it always does. A great surge radiates upward, enveloping me in a warmth I find difficult to describe.

I remember the old-stricture: It is nice to experience emotion during Mass but not essential. Maybe not, but the added dimension lifts the spirit, transports the soul even hinting at what lies in store for the faithful.

On the other side of her father, the five-year-old is belting out "Alleluia, alleluia" with the enthusiasm of a gospel singer. Later she will tell us unprompted, "Church was good today." Too young to comprehend meaning in the rest of the Celebration she responds to the most basic of elements.

It is time for the sign of peace and again I am reminded what sensual creatures we are. Scientists have long told us that infants who go untouched wither and die. Now that we Catholics touch in church, hands meeting, eyes meeting, souls meeting, there is new life among us. Alleluia, Alleluia.

It is time to receive Our Lord and as nearly everyone over seven rises to file forward I remember the much smaller lines before Vatican II.

In our appreciation of the modern church it is easy to forget that the changes did not come about by themselves. If for one, am grateful. To Pope John first, and to our Bishop, our priests and sisters and the laymen — not just for their vision, but their continuing efforts toward bringing us home.

however, a great emphasis is being placed on finding homes for children agencies consider hard to place.

Once adoptions were done by childless couples. Today, families with six and more children are adopting. Even singles are becoming adoptive parents.

Children are being placed across racial and religious lines, and to ease the financial subsidies are available.

What is being sought are loving, caring, adoptive homes that can meet the needs of the child.

Frances is one of more than 1,000 children registered with the New York State Adoption exchange who are waiting for adoptive placement.

In addition, Frances and more than 200 other children are listed in THE CAP BOOK, a photo listing service of CAP.

For general information about adoption, the following agencies should be contacted:

Catholic Family Center, 546-7220; Monroe County Department of Social Services, 442-4000; Northaven, Inc., 266-4330; the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP), 288-7989.

For further information about Frances, THE CAP BOOK should be contacted at 436-5070.

**Nazareth Slates Author Mangione**

Jerre Mangione, noted writer and scholar, will discuss "Growing Up Sicilian in Rochester" at 8 p.m., Nov. 19, in Room A-13 of the Nazareth Arts Center.

He has published several fiction and non-fiction books and his work has appeared in numerous publications which include the Saturday Review, Book World, Harper's Bazaar,

Esquire, Mademoiselle, and Travel.

**FILMS ON LOAN**

Films selected from the Rochester International Amateur Film Festival over the past four years can be borrowed by local groups free of charge. Movies on a Shoestring, the volunteer organization that sponsors the annual festival, will lend a set of six half-hour 16mm reels to schools, clubs and other organizations. The package is called The Best of the Fest. It can be obtained by writing to Jim Dierks, 405 Westminster Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

**Italian Caritas Officials Visit Drought Areas**

Rome [RNS] — Two top officials of Italian Caritas left here for Central West Africa to visit Senegal, Upper Volta, Niger and Mali to determine how best to use the charitable resources of Italy's Catholic Church to aid these drought-stricken nations.

Msgr. Giovanni Nervo, president of Italian Caritas and the organization's executive director, Msgr. Venecio del Perugia, said that they expected to distribute financial aid through local relief agencies, missionary groups and government organizations.

The sub-Saharan nations of West Africa are among the poorest nations in the world and continue to be struck by disastrous droughts and crop failures.

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**ALL IN THE FAMILY**



Sarah Child

The older I get the more I enjoy going to Mass. It is not just that another birthday subtly reminds one of the finite qualities of this existence and the need for a closer alliance with one's maker and savior, nor that age has made me more tolerant of remaining quietly in one place for an hour or so.

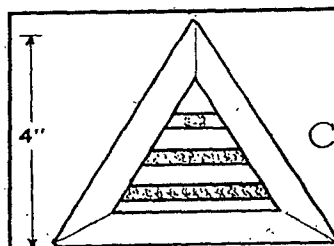
The truth is that the Church has changed considerably since I was a child. Wonderfully so — in spite of what some of the doom spreaders would have us believe, in spite of my own grumbings after a particularly numbing homily.

I thought of the changes on a recent Saturday night as we entered the side vestibule for 5 o'clock Mass in the early November twilight.

As a youngster I had especially disliked entering the church at night. My neurotic bent balked at the pervasive gloom of a too dimly lit nave and whatever spiritual gains I might have made from attending Lenten services must have been lost in a hostile attitude.

Yet as we walked in on this unseasonably warm evening, to choose a pew a few seats behind where the folk choir would sit between songs, I looked around to find the softly lit interior warm and beckoning.

Here, there, all over the church as the crowding in began, as it always does for this Mass, were



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