The Children Who Wait

Need 'Sense of Belonging'

"John and Jeffery are brothers who have been in the same foster home for six years. They share a close relationship although there is the usual sibling rivalry. John is 10-years-old and has light brown hair and brown eyes.

"He is presently in an educable mentally retarded class and enjoys school very much. He likes animals, miniature golf and camping. John has a speech problem which is more noticeable when he is excited. At times John can be fairly aggressive.

"John is in good physical health, but will need orthondontia work.

"Jeff, 8 years old, is somewhat shy and sensitive. He has blond hair, blue eyes, and freckles. He will be in fourth grade and achieves average grades in school. He enjoys the same

ALL IN THE

FAMILY

Sarah Child

A little of this and some of that

From the mailbag: "I enjoyed your column about how Mass has

changed. Ain't it the truth — all

the changes have mostly been for

the best. I wish you could take in

"They have one of the most beautiful services I've ever attended. The participation of the

congregants is incredible. The

other night I went to a 40-hour

devotion and contained in the

Anyone who had any sort of hurt.

emotional, physical or mental

- was invited to receive the

special blessing of the priest as he laid one's hands upon one's head.

"It had been a bad day for me, crowning a bad week and I couldn't help weeping in my pew.

The woman sitting next to me, who was crippled and in some

physical pain offered me a prayer

card with the most beautiful sentiment on it. I read it, returned

it to her and she said if I'd like

one, to give her my address and

she'd see that I got one. The

service was wonderful, but that

one kindness was worth even

Our youngest now has three

months of kindergarten under her

belt which led me to remark at

supper one night that I was now

the only one in the family

who'd never had that experience.

more.

service was a "liturgy of healing."

a Mass in our little town.

activities as his brother and gets along very well with others. He is in good health.

"Both children need the sense of belonging and security of an adoptive family.

"They have asked for fairlyyoung parents who like to do things with their children."

So reads the listing for two more of The Children Who Wait, special children looking for a home, children, who, for one reason or another, are considered "hard to place" by the adoption agencies.

In years past there was a great emphasis on placing healthy infants in adoptive homes. Today however, a special drive is underway to find loving and secure homes for children like John and Jeffrey.

The brothers are among more

houses. A gaggle of plumbers have been parading through the front hall today in search of the basement door which interestingly enough is located plumb in the center of the house instead of conveniently next to the back door.

Prettiest Christmas decoration idea yet for the mantel: boughs of evergreen interspersed with very large, red, highly polished Delicious apples. Beware however that the setting may be very temporary if the fruit lovers at your house are not able to contain themselves. P.S. The innovator says it can also become expensive.

As a kind of insurance against a heavy snowfall I'd planned on getting the snow tires on the station wagon very early and buying three superslick snowshovels to store in the garage. Unfortunately I've accomplished nothing yet. A friend says he has a better way to guard against storms. He contracts with a snow removal firm for the whole season at a set fee of \$75. He says wryly it guarantees him good weather every time. I say if it works, it's worth every penny.

than 1,000 children registered with the New York State Adoption Exchange. In addition they and more than 200 other children are listed in The CAP Book, a photo listing service of the Council of Adoptive Parents.

The reasons children are considered hard to place vary. Some children are from minority races, others are mixed racially. Some are sibling groups, like John and Jeffrey. Some are older — the age range for The Children Who Wait goes from infancy through early teens. And some are physically, mentally and/or emotionally handicapped.

The one thing they all have in common is the need for an adoptive family.

Persons considering adoption of The Children Who Wait should know of the dramatic change in adoptive patterns in recent years. Today both couples with large families and singles are taking these children into their homes.

Children are being placed across religious and racial lines. Financial subsidies are available to ease the burden of adoption. The basic requirement is a loving, caring environment that can meet the needs of the children.

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 John and Jeffrey, THE CAP BOOK should be contacted at 436-5070.

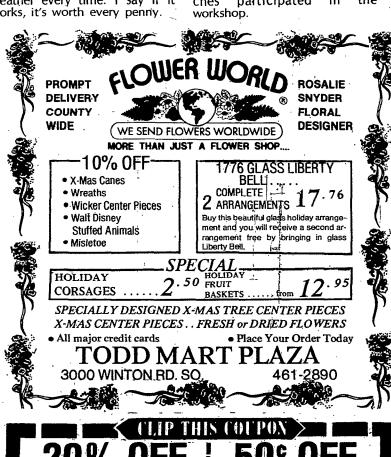
WORKSHOP

Dryden — A regional workshop on education was held at Holy Cross parish center on Dec. 6. Dr. Padraic O'Hare, Mrs. Judith Ann Kollar and Sister Elizabeth Hughes presented discussions on what makes up an education committee. Members of St. Catherine of Siena, St. Anthony, All Saints and St. Francis churches participated in the workshop.

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The 10-year-old had a solution. "That's okay Mom," she quipped. "You can make it up at night school."

* * *

Children are seldom named any more for the saint upon whose feast day they are born. My grandmother was. Maria Concetta who would be in her nineties was born Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our younger daughter also has a December birthday. We named her Cara which means "beloved." And she is.

It is easy to see that it is men and not housewives who design





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