Village of Love (2605) 19th Dec. 1958

Fifty miles North of Stuttgart stands the village of Klinge. It is better-named the "village of love"..

For it was here that Father Magnani, a German priest, built homes and family ties for orphaned and refugee children. It began in 1945, when the priest found himself in charge of thousands of refugees. He quickly realised that clothes and food were not enough. After years of privation and sorrow, the children needed love and affection.

So Father Magnani began his youth village. He built a school - where the children learned the Christmas story and were taught their native tongue. Often begging money from welfare organisations, he managed to continue his task.

But more than teaching was wanted. For years, they had been the flotsam of post-war Europe...moved from camp to camp.

So he built family homes...with eight to ten children in every house - under the care of a foster mother.

Every three houses had a foster -father - who taught the children and lavished upon them the love and affection they needed...

To-day, Klinge is a living monument to a good and kindly priest...

Recently, FATHER Pire received the Nobel Prize for building refugee villages all over Europe...

Father Magnani has yet to be recognised. ~~But his reward cannot be counted in monetary values - rather in the contentment of a priest who has tried to follow the path of the Good Shepherd...~~

But he can have no greater reward than the happy faces of the children around him.