

It contains in it the ability to encourage self-reliance, initiative, independence and the exercise of a personal inward authority. And the only way " to teach this liberated freedom of the individual is to exemplify it, in a way which awakens in other people, by a mysterious sympathy, the courage to take hold of their own uniqueness.<sup>(16)</sup> It is to enable human beings to grow up and mature as human beings " to mature manhood, measured by nothing less than the full stature of Christ."

In our concern for the individual and for therapeutic environments we are now tending to rely on the psychologist and psychiatrist. My suspicion is that if we call them in at all it should be to work with us more than the children. By this I mean that we primarily are the ones who need help, help to see that the aim is the process, to see that helping and caring are less task - orientated activities than an indication of a way of living and being. The aim is the process. To keep on defining the task of Child Care in terms of the Children, is carefully to filter the worker out from the process.

This then tends to replace caring and involvement with the categorisation and labelling of children. The task then becomes child-mimicry, containing, controlling, with an overdependence on medicines, therapies and systems. The Residential Home could become a place where the child is a ' case ' and the worker the ' all powerful manipulator ', whereas it should be the hub of a dynamic of relationships between living people in which each one grows to a dignity and autonomy commensurate with his end and NOT defined in terms of the aims of groups, institutions and systems, be they religious, secular or political . It has been said that

" the highest safeguard for the physical, mental and spiritual health of the child is not primarily the attention paid to the child but the unrestricted love of the parents for each other. "