

THIS LETTER APPEARED IN THE CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER ON JUNE 5, 1953,
IN "LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE".....

HAPPY LAD

Editor, the Caller:

This is an open letter of thanks to the many people who cooperated in making an orphan lad happy for a day. The space required to thank each and everyone of these kind folks is not available here. However, the boy is sending "thank you" cards and believe you me, he is trully sincere. He is a Latin American.

This 18 year old boy is a hero in the eyes of his neighbors for he has taken the burden of caring for his younger brother and sister. Seeing that they attend school, making sure his sister made her first communion, going to school himself, and working from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. He was supposed to graduate with this year's Roy Miller class but caring for his mother, who died of cancer last January, made it impossible for him to attend school, work, and make sure his mother took her medicines on time. However, some people have so much faith in him that they are trying to see that he finishes his schooling this summer before the Army nabs him. This boy is entirely without close kinfolks. And incidently, is still paying debts incurred by his mother including doctor and hospital bills.

I would also like to say that a lot of so-called social working groups and individuals who are forever proclaiming and shouting, "We Latin Americans have rights!" failed to "come across". They were called upon to give a hand and all we got was a polite brush-off (others were downright irritated) and they would pass the buck. Some even took an uglier attitude and said in a 'round about way that they were not responsible for the boy's fate. Other businessmen (all Latins) who were asked to pass the hat at their offices gave a song and dance about not having the time to do so. But I'll guarantee you that if the matter was to get publicity they would have broken all track records to get their names on top. Evidently, a thing like this was too quiet for these publicity seekers and race-mongers. These are the men that run to the nearest radio station at each election and put their 2 cents in and say vote for so and so, he will ~~defed~~ our rights and our people. All they do is push us further into a segregated group for their selfish purposes. Others proclaiming loudly about their religion refuse to read "Help the widows and the orphans." We had more spontaneous response from Anglos. Not one of them refused to help.

We all hope someday there will actually be a group of men sincerely interested in orphan children who want an education, not only in Latins but other races as well.

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