

My Time in St Joseph's Girls Home

By
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I was eight when I went into the home.

The cruelty started almost from the beginning were I was small and quite and the other girls used to blame me for all the noise and the nun would put me in the bathroom with the light out and the door shut and would have to stay there for some time. (it would seam like forever)

Your day started at 5.30 am with mass and then you had your breakfast and you had your chores to do before you went to school.

Some times I was still hungry from not enough to eat.

When I was older I looked after the small ones and this nun used to check the beds to see if they were made without any wrinkles and if they had any she would strip the bed and get them to make them again. I would make most of the beds for the little one so they would not get into trouble. She used to dig her nails into you and leave marks on you and give a good shake at the same time.

Then there were times when you had a dress on for a week, if it was dirty you would receive a hiding for it as I always pulled away I would receive more. I would be black and blue form the hiding.

When you were at school if you had any spelling mistakes you received a bashing by 2 X4 and my hand would be swollen after that. (I think that is why I have trouble with spelling today and you have no idea how it has effected me through my life)

I always was receiving some hiding for something or other and when I look back on it now, I think they were trying to break your sprit. They did not do that to me, as I would fight all the harder even if I hurt from the beating I received from the nuns.

One day Mary and I had a pillow fight, she was the instergater of the fight and I was the one that received the hiding for it. Black and blue again. They the nuns like to use a leather strap or a feather duster .

Then at 13 I ran away from the home with another girl named Bridge. Because of the cruelty at the Home. The police found us and brought us back to the home. I was the one that got punished and the other girl got off Scott free. I was put under the staircase all day and was not aloud to move from the place, not sure how long that lasted. All I know that it was very unfair as she was the one that instergater it in the fist place.

At Christmas times the nuns would send us to peoples place for the holidays, (some holiday) all you did was mind the kids and do the house work for them.

Christmas day you were lucky if you received a gift and their children would be showed with gifts.

I was 12 years old when I had the best holiday of my life with a family named Mr and Mrs Aiken, they also took me when I was 15 years old.

Then at 16 the nuns got me a job and put me with a family and I did not fit in very well as they were trying to change me which is very hard at 16 and I went back to the home after eighteen months.

Then the nuns told me I had to leave as I was too old and I had to go out into the world with no knowledge of the world, I did a lot of crying in those days.

I would say to this day my time in the home has effected me all my life, as I would go one forward and three backwards.

Relationships I am not good at as time goes it always ends, even my children, I have three, boy and two girls and very few friends that I can count on.

Life has been very hard for me as I always seem to make the wrong choices for me in my life and trust people and they in turn always hurt me.

Will I ever have a home and people that love me as I am and care about me.