

Foster Child Must Join Kin for 1 Day

By Dennis Bell

Mineola — A State Supreme Court justice yesterday ordered the foster parents of 5-year-old Vincent Maucieri to turn the boy over to his natural grandparents, for one day only, so he can attend his sister's first communion.

Justice Leo McGinity made the ruling on a writ of habeas corpus brought by the boy's grandmother, Anna Morinelli, 55, of 250 Maple Pl., Mineola. Mrs. Morinelli went to court after Rosalie and Salvatore Guida of Brooklyn, Vincent's foster parents, refused to allow the boy

to attend the service scheduled for noon today at Corpus Christi Church in Mineola.

The two families are engaged in a custody fight over the boy and a suit is pending in Manhattan Family Court. Vincent's sister, Dawn, lives with the Morinellis. The children's father is dead and their mother relinquished custody.

"Our position is that the child would be traumatized" by the visit, said Wilfred Marrin, the attorney for Little Flower Children's Services, the foster care agency that placed Vincent with the

Guidas in October. The agency plans to recommend that the Guidas be allowed to adopt the boy. "The child has refused to leave the foster parents' side since October. He realizes he's in the middle of a tug-of-war. We don't feel that this kid is ready for tomorrow's visit," Marrin said yesterday.

"The only problem is that Vincent is calling his grandmother a 'bad grandma,'" said Daniel Mooney, Mrs. Morinelli's lawyer. "Someone has told a 5-year-old boy to call his grandmother bad. There's no reason Vincent shouldn't

come to church and share first Holy Communion with his sister unless someone has lied to him."

McGinity said he was concerned only with the writ, not the custody battle in Family Court.

Mrs. Morinelli could not be reached, but her husband, Mario, 54, said of the ruling, "I think it's wonderful. It's beautiful." Frederick J. Magovern, the Guidas' attorney, said Vincent "doesn't know the Morinellis as his grandparents . . . It's like sending him to spend the weekend with strangers."