

Charities Board Tackles Institutional Injustice

By John Dash
In the past several months, the board of diocesan Catholic Charities has made public its position on several controversial issues. Not only do the questions

addressed represent an apparent shift in Charities board concerns, the publicizing of its collective view is also a recent development.

scope of the Charities philosophy which he outlined as convening to discover problems, educating on the systematic "kinks" which promote injustices rather than ease them, and enlightening persons to their personal and

community responsibility to take action.

The question that must be asked when facing injustice, he said, is, "What would our Lord have done in the face of this?"

Neither the president of the Charities board nor its executive director would acknowledge there have been changes in Charities outlook here, but what was once a body primarily concerned with setting policy and overseeing the operations of the direct-service organizations umbrella, has become, within the past year, also an advocate for such diverse concerns as passage of the Hatch human life amendment, development of community residences for the disabled, and alternatives to the state's proposed \$500 million prison bond issue.

Board president Robert Burke said last week that board actions simply reflect issues of concern in the area. The former FBI agent, now attorney in private practice, has been on the board for two years and has been president since May.

Maurice Tierney, executive director, said that the variety of positions the board has taken merely "reflect the board's willingness to deal with realities."

Issues are brought to the board's attention by Charities staffers, by board members themselves, by leaders in the diocesan community and by officials of the diocese, Burke said. He cited the questions of the Hatch amendment and the teen pregnancy problem in Monroe County as examples of direct diocesan involvement with the board.

Burke explained that many of the board's most recent actions stem from a commitment made two years ago to pursue questions of family life in its moral, economic, social and religious spheres.

He singled out Charities' work with the disabled through community residences, through advocacy projects like LILAC and through such programs as Project SEED as arising from the commitment to the family.

Besides its executive committee, Burke said, Charities' board also has a direct program operations committee which reviews services Charities delivers; an agency relations committee, which works on the affiliates' link with Catholic Charities; and an administrative committee which oversees personnel, legal, communications, financial and adoption questions.

The board, he said, "is interested in a broad-based analysis of problems and concerns." Tierney amplified that: "Charities is committed to the protection of the most marginalized persons in our society, wherever they are."

In the case of the last year's prison bond issue referendum, in which the state, sought to raise funds to construct new prison facilities, Rochester Charities encouraged voters to vote no, saying that the money could be better used elsewhere and saying that there were alternatives to incarceration which could easily be developed with such funds.

Tierney said that such action was well within the

Recent Ratings

Following is a list of recent movies rated by the U.S. Catholic Conference Department of Communication on the basis of moral suitability.

The first symbol after each title is the USCC rating. The second symbol is the rating given by the Motion Picture Association of America.

These are the USCC symbols and their meanings: A-I, general patronage; A-II, adults and adolescents; A-III, adults; A-IV, adults with reservations (this rating is given to certain films which, while not morally offensive in themselves, require caution and some analysis as a protection to the uninformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions); O, morally offensive. The word "recommended" in parentheses is inserted behind the titles of those films that merit such a designation.

These are the MPAA symbols and their meanings: G, general audiences, all ages admitted; PG, parental guidance suggested, some material may not be suitable for children; R, restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian; X, no one under 17 admitted (age limit may vary in certain areas).

A
The Amateur, A-III (R)
Amin — The Rise and Fall, O (R)
Annie, A-I (PG)
Atlantic City, A-III (R)
Author, Author, A-III (PG)

B
The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, O (R)
Body Heat, O (R)
Blade Runner, O (R)
The Border, A-III (R)
Butterfly, O (R)

C
Cat People, O (R)
Chariots of Fire, A-I (PG) (Recommended)
The Chosen, A-II (PG)
Conan the Barbarian, O (R)

D
Das Boot, A-III (R)
Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid, A-III (PG)
Death Trap, A-III (PG)
Death Valley, O (R)
Death Wish II, O (R)
Diner, A-III (R)

E
The Escape Artist, A-II (PG)
E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial, A-I (PG)
Evil Under the Sun, A-II (PG)

F
Fighting Back, O (R)
Firefox, A-III (PG)
Fox and Hound, A-I (G) (Recommended)

G
Gallipoli, A-III (PG)
Ghost Story, (R)
Grease II, A-III (PG)
Gregory's Girl, A-II (PG)

H
Hanky Panky, A-III (PG)

I
I Love You, O (R)
I Ought to be in Pictures, A-II (PG)

If You Could See What I Hear, A-III (PG)
I'm Dancing as Fast as I Can, A-III (R)

L
Lady Chatterly, O (R)
A Little Sex, O (R)
The Long Good Friday, A-IV (R)
Love and Money, O (R)
Making Love, O (R)
Man of Iron, A-II (PG)
Megaforce, A-II (PG)
Mephisto, A-IV
A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy, A-III (PG)
Missing, A-III (PG) (Recommended)

N
Neighbors, O (R)
Night Crossing, A-I (PG)

O
On Golden Pond, A-III (PG)
One From the Heart, A-III (R)

P
Paradise, O (R)
Partners, O (R)
Penitentiary II, O (R)
Pennies from Heaven, A-III (R)
Personal Best, O (R)
Pixote, A-IV (Recommended)
Poltergeist, O (PG)
Porky's, O (R)
Private Lessons, O (R)

Q
Quest for Fire, O (R)

R
Raging Bull, A-III (R)
Ragtime, A-IV
Reds, A-III (PG) (Recommended)
Richard Pryor Live on Sunset Strip, A-IV (R)
Rocky III, A-III (PG)
Rollover, A-III (R)

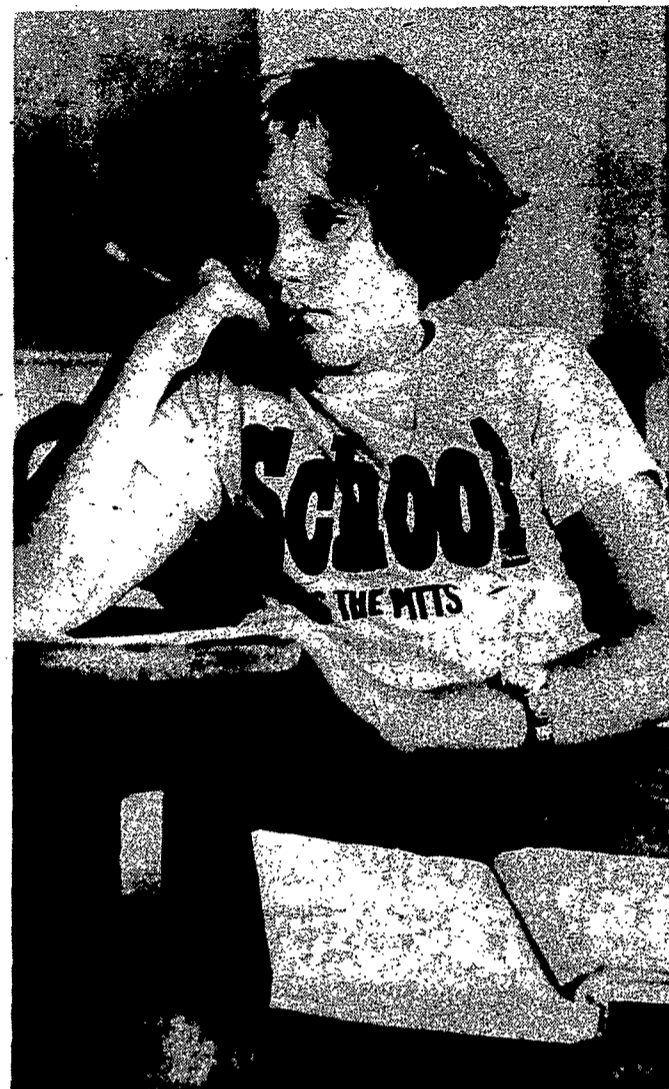
S
The Seduction, O (R)
The Secret Policeman's Other Ball, A-III
Sharky's Machine, A-III (R)
Shoot the Moon, A-III (R)
Some Kind of Hero, O (R)
Soup For One, O (R)
Squeeze Play, O (R)
Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan, A-II (PG)
The Story of Christiane F., A-IV
A Stranger is Watching, A-III (R)

T
Taps, A-II (PG)
The Thing, O (R)
Three Brothers, A-II
Ticket to Heaven, A-II (PG)
Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man, O (R)
Tron, A-III (PG)

V
Victor-Victoria, A-IV (PG)
Visiting Hours, O (R)

W
Windwalker, A-II (PG)
The World According to Garp, A-III (R)
Wrong is Right, A-III (R)

Y
Young Doctors in Love, O (R)



A Case of the Blues

Ten-year-old Mary Ann Hughes of Daviston, Ala., expresses her feelings about school on her face as well as her T-shirt. (NC photo)

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