

MOVIES

Making of 'Gandhi' a Labor of Love

By Michael Gallagher

New York (NC) — John Gregory Dunn and Joan Didion, whose script for "True Confessions" did not, I think, represent one of their finest hours, wrote a book on Hollywood a few years back in which they purported to reveal to us yokels the dirty little secret about making movies. Everybody, said John and Joan, was in it for the money.

Of course the news didn't come as much of a shock. Even those of us still struggling to comb the hayseeds out of our hair more or less suspected as much. It's one of those things that everybody knows.

What everybody knows, however, need not always be true. Yes, many people set out to make movies because they want to make money. But there are also those who set

out to make movies simply because they want — want very, very much — to make movies.

And among the latter is Sir Richard Attenborough, the producer-director of "Gandhi," which the U.S. Catholic Conference has picked as the best film of 1982.

An immensely successful actor, Attenborough decided 20 years ago to get on the other side of the camera — not for the money, not even because he wanted to make movies, but because he wanted to make a movie: a film biography of the little brown man in the dhoti who challenged the British Empire at the height of its power and prestige — and who won.

Born in 1923, the son of parents who were "free thinkers," to use the distinctively English term for those unwilling to accept the

received wisdom in politics and religion, Attenborough grew up with a strong awareness that protest was a right and natural course of action in a disordered and unjust world.

At 17 he won a coveted scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and after graduation began his theatrical career on the West End stage. In a 1943 stage production of Graham Greene's "Brighton Rock" he played Pinkie, the young razor-wielding man who was the first of many Greene heroes to provoke theological speculation. Four years later he re-created the role in a movie version, but before that came service in the Royal Air Force as a gunner and cameraman.

In 1963, at 40, he was at the top of his profession, a critically acclaimed, financially secure actor, when he

received a phone call from a stranger, a man named Motilal Kothari, who identified himself as a staff member of the Indian High Commission in London and who had an idea for a film.

For no very good reason that he could recall later, the successful English actor met with the obscure Indian, who admitted that he knew next to nothing of filmmaking. Kothari gave Attenborough a biography of Gandhi, and Attenborough's life was never the same again.

In the next 20 years, his determination to make his film of Gandhi's life, — a determination that seemed close to mania — became a byword in the motion picture business. It was to be a saga that would take Attenborough to the brink of bankruptcy, make him at times an object of ridicule.

At one point, just as in the biblical story of Solomon's judgment, he proved himself the true "mother" of the Gandhi project by his willingness to relinquish it — to director David Lean and playwright Robert Bolt, creators of "A Man for All Seasons."

Twenty years after he conceived the project and after death had overtaken two men who ardently supported the project, the humble Kothari and the famous Lord Mountbatten, Attenborough has brought his dream to realization.

Why did he devote a third of his life to "Gandhi?" What did he feel was so important about the man's story? Attenborough's answer is a quite simple one: "Gandhi," he said, "showed us a way to stop killing each other."

TELEVISION

Sunday, Jan. 30, (ABC) "Smoky and the Bandit" (1977) — Burt Reynolds, Sally Field and Jackie Gleason star in this chase comedy about a daredevil trucker pursued by a state trooper. Little humor, lots of boring car crashes, vulgar and profane language and suggestion of premarital sex. A-III, adults; PG, parental guidance.

Wednesday, Feb. 2, (CBS) "The Scarlet and the Black." In a drama based on a true story, Gregory Peck plays the courageous Msgr. Hugh O'Flaherty, a Vatican official who helped thousands of Allied POW escapees hide in German-occupied Rome during World War II.

Family Life: Prayer and Social Justice

This is the last in a series of three articles examining Pope John Paul II's "Apostolic Exhortation on the Family" ("Familiaris Consortio"). The series was prepared by Sue Staropoli, co-director of the Family Life Office.

As we look at our life experience as the source of our ministry, so we see it as the source and occasion of our prayer life. "Spirituality" is not in a box we open once a year at a men's/women's retreat. It is not a skill we learn in a workshop. It is in the everyday happenings of our lives that we find God. It is our times of brokenness, of joy, of confusion, of appreciation, of pain that leads us to God. If we look deeply into the ordinary and find the miracles, — the touches of God in our lives — that is prayer.

As Pope John Paul II states: "Family prayer has for its very own object family life itself, which in all its varying circumstances is seen as a call from God and lived as a filial response to His call. Joys and sorrows, hopes and disappointments, births and birthday celebrations, wedding anniversaries of parents, departures, separations and homecomings, important and far-reaching decisions, the death of those who are dear, etc. — all of these mark God's loving intervention in the family's salvation history. They should be

seen as suitable moments for thanksgiving, for petition, for trusting abandonment of the family into the hands of their common Father in heaven." **When children are present in a family, the most critical factor in their faith development will be the degree to which their parents witness in word and deed to this awareness of God working in their everyday lives.**

Just as attitudes about ourselves and God develop in the home, so do our attitudes about others. If one experiences at home an attitude of hospitality, a concern for others, a focus on giving and sharing of time and possessions — these gospel values are often integrated into one's own personality and lifestyle. How critical this family function is to the social mission of the Church, because the dominant cultural messages point toward individualism, depersonalization and self-centeredness.

Pope John Paul II states: "The great task that has to be faced today for the renewal of society is that of recapturing the ultimate meaning of life and its fundamental values." He stresses the role of the family in this challenge of our world: "Children must grow up with a correct attitude of freedom with regard to material goods, by adopting a simple and austere lifestyle and being fully convinced that man is more precious for what he is than what he has." And he goes on,

"... children must be enriched not only with a sense of true justice, which alone leads to respect for the personal dignity of each individual, but also and more powerfully by a sense of true love, understood as sincere solicitude and disinterested service with regard to others, especially the poorest and those most in need. The family is the first and fundamental school of social living."

Pope John Paul II calls families to this God-given responsibility: "Thus, far from being closed in on itself, the family is by nature and vocation open to other families and to society and undertakes its social role... Families therefore, either singly or in association, can and should devote themselves to manifold social service activities, especially in favor of the poor..." He particularly notes "the ever greater importance in our society of hospitality in all its forms, from opening the door of one's home and still more of one's heart to the pleas of one's brothers and sisters..."

In the Listening Process which was the foundation for the Family Ministry Task Force Report there was virtually no explicit recognition by families of their vital role in the pressing concerns of social justice at the local, national or international level. The report calls for vehicles by which families can "examine attitudes about societal issues, their own lifestyles, and the intimate connection between the two." At the same time, the report urges those guiding the Church's social mission to "develop vehicles by which families can involve themselves more effectively in those societal issues..." Involving families as units not only benefits the social mission today, but creates a natural flow of leadership in the future.

FINAL NOTE: In reviewing the pope's Exhortation on the Family, we've been most encouraged by his tone of affirmation and by the many areas in which our local Task Force Report is forcefully supported. As a reminder, the Regional Assemblies in February and March (see schedule) are the occasion for parish leadership people to begin a commitment to concrete responses to the challenges of Pope John Paul and the requests of local family people.

Regional Meetings on the Family Ministry Task Force Report for Parish and Regional Leaders

AUDIENCE

Parish Staff
Parish and Regional leadership people, including:
Parish Council members
Parish Committee members
Regional Officers

TIMING AND LOCATIONS:

DATE/TIME	REGIONS	PARISH	TOWN
Sunday, Feb. 20 2-5 p.m.	Yates/Ontario/Wayne	St. Mary's	Canandaigua
Friday, Feb. 25 7-10 p.m.	Southeast, Southwest	St. Anne's	Rochester
Tuesday, March 1 7-10 p.m.	Chemung/Schuyler, Tompkins/Tioga	Ss. Peter & Paul	Elmira
Sunday, March 6 2-5 p.m.	North, Northwest, Northeast	St. Stanislaus	Rochester
Wednesday, March 9 7-10 p.m.	Livingston, Steuben	St. Mary's	Dansville
Sunday, March 13 2-5 p.m.	Seneca/Cayuga	St. Mary's	Auburn

ADDITIONAL SUMMARIES MAY BE ORDERED BY CALLING OR WRITING:

Family Life Office 25 copies for \$1
1150 Buffalo Road 50 copies for \$1.50
Rochester, NY 14624
(716) 436-5450

All pastors have received 10 copies of this report which Bishop Matthew H. Clark has asked be shared with staff and leadership people.

NFP Class Set Feb. 18

A Natural Family Planning class will begin Friday, Feb. 18, at St. Mary's School Library, 95 N. Main St., Canandaigua. Enrollment is limited to six engaged or married couples.

Anyone interested in learning more about natural family planning is invited to a free Information Session from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Friday, Jan. 28, at the same site.

Both are sponsored by NFP Education of Rochester and pre-registration is required by contacting the NFP office at (716) 464-8705. Private instruction also is available.

Natural family can be used to plan or avoid pregnancy.

55 Alive

The 55 Alive/Mature Driving Course, sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons, is being conducted 1-5 p.m., today, Jan. 26, and again on Jan. 28 at the Senior Citizen Center in Brockport; and 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. tomorrow, Jan. 27, and Jan. 28 at the Senior Citizen Center in Webster. Reservations for the course are made by calling 637-8161 (Brockport), and 671-1530 (Webster).

