

# Brisk pace keeps latest 'Trek' film interesting

By Gerri Pare  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Featuring the familiar folks of the Starship Enterprise, *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* (Paramount) brings back the crew for a supposedly final mission inspired by the demise of the Cold War.

As the treacherous Klingons' planet slowly starves from oxygen deprivation, the Federation decides to bury the hatchet and invite Klingon Gorkon (David Warner) to Earth to negotiate a peace conference. To Captain Kirk's (William Shatner) fury, Spock (Leonard Nimoy) volunteers the Enterprise to escort the Klingon vessel safely through Federation airspace to the momentous event.

En route to the conference Gorkon is murdered and Kirk and Dr. McCoy (DeForest Kelley) are accused and quickly found guilty. They are banni-

shed to a distant icebound planet, leaving Spock to ferret out the traitor in their midst and prevent all-out interplanetary warfare.

While the crew, first seen in the 1960s Star Trek TV series, is getting very long in the tooth, co-writer/director Nicholas Meyer still turns out a genial adventure. The story's peppy pace keeps interest from flagging.

Very much in evidence are big-budget production values, from immense sets to just a few swell special effects that consistently entertain the eyes.

No outstanding performances or terribly ingenious plot twists are seen here, but the good-humored dialogue is infectious. The movie also gives equal moments in the spotlight to such familiar characters as Chief Engineer Scotty (James Doohan), Commander Chekov (Walter Koenig), Captain Sulu (George Takei) and Commander



Gregory Schwartz-Paramount Pictures  
*Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* pits the Federation against its sworn enemy, the Klingon empire. The cast includes Leonard Nimoy (left) as Mr. Spock, Kim Cattrall as Lt. Valeris, and Paul Rossilli (second from right) as Brigadier Kerla.

Uhuru (Nichelle Nichols).

Christopher Plummer as the nefarious General Chang gets some of the best lines as he rejects any notion of peace and good will toward men — a notion that's alien to this alien.

Though Spock wonders if we are "so old we've outlived our usefulness," trekkies and nostalgic Baby Boomers

are likely to enjoy this latest if not last outing of the venerable Starship Enterprise.

Because of some laser shootouts and explosions, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

# Book should give spiritual boost to workers, parents

OF HUMAN HANDS: A Reader in the Spirituality of Work, edited by Gregory F. Augustine Pierce; Augsburg Press (Minneapolis, MN, 1991); 124 pages.

By Monsignor Charles Diviney  
Guest contributor

This is the first of a series of books with the general title *The Christian at Work in the World*.

The specific theme of this volume is an attempt to show how work and religion should be related and intertwined. It insists that many Christians unfortunately inhabit two worlds, one of business, the other of spirituality, and that never the twain shall meet.

The material is developed in three phases to illustrate how spirituality and labor can and should be integrated. First, the book poses the question: "What is meant by the phrase 'Spirituality at Work?'" Then 15 people explain how they spiritualize their own particular craft, business or art. The book concludes with a short section on how the church can support spirituality in work.

All of the essays in this volume have been published before in a variety of magazines. For this reason it is understandable that they have an uneven quality about them. Some are quite superior to others.



All the writers are Christian, the majority Roman Catholics, although several other denominations are represented.

One of the authors observes that trying to define spirituality is like trying to nail Jell-O to a tree.

But we can reach some idea of it from the Bible, theology and church teaching. In fact, this volume pays tribute to Pope John Paul II's encyclical "On Human Work," which helps us to understand the very phrase "Spiri-

tuality of Work."

Spirituality can be defined as the way in which we orient ourselves to God, and this book's 15 essayists show how they have tried to spiritualize their jobs or occupations.

This list of these men and women is varied and diverse, representing endeavors from blue-collar and office work to law, medicine and art.

The common themes running through all their diverse lives are the meaning of work, relationships with their fellow workers, and the need to balance responsibilities to job, family, community and church. All of these are necessary for any successful attempt to spiritualize their day-to-day labors.

I found the essay "Davy's Dinner" by a priest to be hyperbolic, and the concluding essay, "They Bring Their Work to Church," too superficial.

But I considered two of the essays to be rather extraordinary. One is a poem by a retired general treasurer of the United Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Here are the last few lines:

"I stand straight and walk proud, because I know my contribution to society is based on skill, not bluff; on sweat, not sweet talk; on production, not press agency.

"I am a building tradesman, belong-

ing to a building trades union. Because I am, I need truckle neither to king nor tycoon."

The best of the essays, entitled "A Monk in the Bosom of His Family," was written by Paul Wilkes.

When the author was torn between conflicting desires to become a monk and to get married, he took a year off from work to live near a Trappist monastery and follow the monks' daily routine.

At the end of the year he decided he did not have a vocation to the Trappists, and later married. He later discovered that parenting is in every way as much or more demanding than the monastic life.

Workers who read this book should get a real spiritual boost. This is especially true for parents.

EDITORS' NOTE: Monsignor Diviney's review is reprinted courtesy of *The Tablet*, newspaper of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Beginning with the edition of Jan. 16, the Catholic Courier will publish the bi-weekly column "Faith and Work," written by Gregory Pierce, editor of the book reviewed above.

A native of Rochester, Pierce is co-publisher and editor of ACTA Publications in Chicago, and past president of the National Center for the Laity.

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OF HUMAN HANDS, A Reader in the Spirituality of Work, Edited by Gregory F. Augustine Pierce takes a look at the Christian at work in the world. It tries to answer the question; Is work a curse or a blessing, mere toil or a way of orienting ourselves toward God? In this book, Christians from a wide range of occupations and experiences share their insights into the spirituality of their own individual work. (published by Augsburg and ACTA)

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