



RoboCop (Robert John Burke) is in the thick of the action once again in *RoboCop 3* from Orion pictures.

## 'RoboCop 3' gratuitous, offensive

By Gerri Pare  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Once again, that futuristic cyborg cop with the human brain has been resurrected to oversee the chaos consuming Detroit in *RoboCop 3* (Orion).

Director Fred Dekker does nothing with this violent but slack sequel except to unreel a tired, formula story based on bullets and bloodshed.

In a series of car crashes, explosions and shootouts, the good citizens of Detroit are being systematically run out of their homes. Some of them form a rebel underground and RoboCop (Robert John Burke) eventually aligns with them against the evil minions of Omni Consumer Products, the development corporation running Detroit with an iron hand.

Even the city's regular cops side with the rebels, forcing a showdown between them and Omni mercenaries bolstered by a band of murderous "splatterpunks."

Added unconvincingly to the plot are a little girl (Remy Ryan), who is a genius with electronics and computers, and a robotic samurai (Bruce Locke), who turns up in triplicate to sever RoboCop into several segments. Too bad

he failed.

As if a reward for enduring all this boring nonsense, the big guns come out in the end in the form of special effects. Viewers will get to see RoboCop fly! Better you should fly out of the moviehouse long beforehand, or skip it altogether.

With its unrelieved atmosphere of guns and violence, an R-rating from the Motion Picture Association of America would have seemed a more appropriate designation.

Due to much mindless mayhem and gratuitous violence, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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## Author believes hospitality efforts rooted in Scripture

*Entertaining Angels. Hospitality Programs for the Caring Church*, by Elizabeth Rankin Geitz; Morehouse Publishing (Harrisburg, Pa., 1993); 134 pages; \$11.95.

By Father John J. Philipps  
Guest contributor

"Establish ongoing hospitality programs," asked one of the recommendations during the Rochester diocese's Seventh General Synod, "to create a welcoming environment and set an atmosphere of community in the parish, in the surrounding area, and in the assembly which gathers for the celebration of the Eucharist."

Although this recommendation did not receive enough support to make the final list of priorities, it will, nevertheless, stimulate some parish communities to re-examine the way they relate to newcomers and visitors.

*Entertaining Angels*, written by Elizabeth Rankin Geitz, will be a valuable aid to those communities taking seriously the call of "Recommendation C" under "How can we support our parishes in being faith-filled, celebrating communities."

The author begins by laying the biblical foundation for hospitality, quoting Old and New Testament sources to show that it was through hospitality that the itinerant Jesus of Nazareth preached the Kingdom of his Father. This chapter, perhaps, is the most valuable part of her book.

Her numerous biblical references convince the reader that Christian hospitality is much deeper than the folksy friendliness found at your local Wal-Mart. True "fellowship" (a word which, to the pleasure of this reviewer, the author never uses) is about more than handshakes, coffee hours, and name tags with "smiley faces" on them, nor does it end in the church building or the parish hall.

Rankin Geitz, an Episcopalian transitional deacon, also explains creative outreach programs geared to meet the needs of our community's youth, singles, young families, sick, homeless, and unemployed.

*Entertaining Angels* suggests a step-by-step process for organizing parishioners into effective hospitality ministry, providing recipes for hospitality team meetings, facsimiles of sample handouts and letters for new parishioners.

While the book is certainly a practical tool for organizing "hospitality programs for the caring Church," it is recommended first and foremost for its theology of ministry to newcomers.

After studying this book and implementing some of its ideas, the words of Hebrews (13:2) will ring all the more clear: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing it some have entertained angels without knowing it."

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