

New catechism scales Britain's best seller list

LONDON (CNS) — The new *Catechism of the Catholic Church* shot into Britain's best seller lists, its publisher said.

Publishers of the 816-page English-language version, delayed for a year because of controversy over inclusive language and other sticking points, said June 15 they have ordered a third print run after sales soared beyond expectations in the book's first month on sale.

In mid-June the catechism was in 12th place on Britain's paperback best sellers list, wedged between *I Was A Teenage Warrior*, a cartoon guide to adolescent anguish, and *Fever Pitch*, a fan's-eye view of top London football club Arsenal.

"The third printing will be available at the end of this month and it's already sold out," Liz Marsh, spokeswoman for publishers Geoffrey Chapman, told Reuters, the British news agency, in June.

"The initial print run was for 60,000, and we thought that would truly do it. But demand was greater than the Catholic Church and we thought," Marsh said.

With 100,000 copies already sold or ordered, she said the 12th place in the best sellers list did not even represent the book's full success. Many copies were sold through religious booksellers who are not consulted for the book list.

'The Lion King' lives up to expectations

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

'The Lion King'

Animated tale of an African lion cub (voice of Jonathan Taylor Thomas) who, after being led to believe he caused the death of his father the king (voice of James Earl Jones), runs away in shame, enabling his evil uncle (voice of Jeremy Irons) to assume the throne until he returns as a full-grown lion (voice of Matthew Broderick) to discover the truth and reclaim the kingdom. Directors Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff combine stunning animation with deft comic touches and stirring musical numbers for an evocative allegorical story of a young lion coming of age and learning to assume responsibility as an adult leader. The USCC classification is A-I — general patronage. The MPAA rating is G — general audiences

'Speed'

(20th Century Fox) Determined to save a busload of terrified passengers, a Los Angeles SWAT team cop (Keanu Reeves) leaps aboard a city bus that has been rigged by a psychotic explosives expert (Dennis Hopper) to blow up if it goes less than 50 mph. Despite the lu-



Walt Disney Company
Walt Disney's animated musical-adventure, *The Lion King*, tells the heroic journey of a young lion named Simba, as he struggles to find his way along nature's 'circle of life.'

dicious escapist plot that ultimately goes over the top in turns of impossible heroics, director Jan De Bont's nonstop action movie concentrates more on the steel-willed cop's efforts to prevent mass murder than on the mayhem committed by the crazed maniac. Intermittent violence, intense explosions and frequent rough language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

'City Slickers II'

(Columbia) Disappointing sequel has three New Yorkers (Billy Crystal,

Daniel Stern and Jon Lovitz) heading west in search of stolen gold, with the old trail boss's twin brother (Jack Palance) joining in the hunt. Director Paul Weiland's mildly funny rehash is diluted by plot holes and copycat characterizations and settings. The film includes several off-color remarks, toilet humor, incidental violence and an instance of profanity. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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