

PARENTING

'Willy 2' beats third 'Batman'

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

**"Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home" (1995)**

In this spirited sequel, the now 14-year-old youth (Jason James Richter) joins forces with his 8-year-old half brother (Francis Capra) to rescue the trapped killer whale he had befriended two years earlier and, in turn, the whale saves him from a perilous situation. Director Dwight Little combines exceptional nature photography with an incident-filled narrative and uplifting values for a pleasing family film. Young children may be frightened by scenes of other youngsters in jeopardy. The USCC classification is A1 — general patronage. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Batman Forever" (1995)

Frantic sequel with Batman (Val Kilmer) distracted by a sultry psychologist (Nicole Kidman) and a vengeance-crazed Robin (Chris O'Donnell) while battling two lunatics (Tommy Lee Jones and Jim Carrey) out to destroy the Caped Crusader. Director Joel Schumacher's dark comic fantasy has little narrative interest, relying instead on violent special effects, sleek visuals and exaggerated performances by the two villains. Recurring stylized violence and brief sexual innuendo. The USCC classification is A — adults. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

For the latest film reviews, call Catholic News Service's new movie review line, 1-800-531-4222.

Was young Jesus ever put in 'time out'?

It was a challenging Monday afternoon. My young son Bobby was on his way to the "time out" chair for the third time in less than 20 minutes for chasing our dog Whisper with a soup ladle. A few minutes later, while taking my own "time out," I found myself wondering what Mary might do on the days that Jesus was a handful.

Did Mary ever put Jesus in time out? Did Joseph build a chair just for this purpose? What would Mary do if Jesus refused to eat what she prepared for supper? What tactics did Joseph resort to on the days that Jesus decided he didn't want to wear his coat? How in the world did they cope when Jesus went through the "terrible twos?"

There is surprisingly little recorded about the life of Jesus as a child. What was Jesus like as a boy? What were Mary and Joseph like as parents? I can only imagine how meaningful and helpful it would be for parents everywhere to read Mary's and Joseph's reflections on the joys and challenges of parenthood.

Through the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, we know that Jesus came into this world as a baby with loving parents at his side. Then we hear little until Jesus began his public ministry around the age of 30.

But what about all those years in between? Any new parent is overwhelmed with the responsibilities that come with bringing a child into the world. How did Mary feel? St. Luke writes that following the visit of the shepherds to the stable in Bethlehem, "Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart."

I imagine that not only did Mary treasure all the things that she experi-



family matters

BY EILEEN MARX

enced as the mother of God, but also those things she felt as the mother of a growing child. She must have cherished Jesus' first smile and his first tooth. Often she must have reflected on how fast her little boy was growing. Etched in her heart forever are all the times, but especially the first, when Jesus said, "I love you." And for all eternity she will never forget the joy she felt at Jesus' first steps as a toddler and the heartache she endured watching his final steps on the road to Calvary.

The New Testament tells us only one story of Jesus as a boy.

When Jesus was 12, he went to the temple with his parents to celebrate the feast of Passover. When the celebration was over, Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus was lost. They spent the next three days searching for him.

St. Luke wrote, "When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him: 'Son, why have you done this to us? You see that your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow?' He said to them, 'Why did you search for me? Did you not know I had to be in my Father's house?'"

Any parent whose son or daughter

has been out of sight for three minutes, let alone three days, understands the worry and fear that Mary and Joseph were experiencing while looking for their lost child. And it is a bit comforting to know that even Mary used the line, "How could you do this to us?"

It sounds to me as if Jesus was an independent and precocious child. I wonder if it was difficult for Mary to let go of Jesus as he went about his Father's business; she had to let go of her son sooner than most mothers do. I imagine that Mary and Joseph would have some reassuring words to say to parents of independent teenagers as well.

Even though so little is written about the early years of Jesus' life, the Christmas story has a message for all families and all people. To unwed mothers, foster fathers, children born into poverty, immigrant families, families fleeing persecution and all holy families seeking to do the Lord's will, the message is profound: "You have nothing to fear."

Years later, as the child Jesus grew into a man, he gave us the gift of his words and actions to guide all of us on our journeys of faith.

But Jesus' greatest gift, giving his life so that we could have eternal life, was also his mother's greatest sorrow. I believe that any parent who has lost a child at any age or has seen their child as a victim of hatred, prejudice and injustice, understands to some degree the anguish and grief that Mary experienced as she stood at the foot of the cross. For even though she knew it was the fulfillment of Scripture, up on that cross was the Son of God, her son and, at one time, her little boy.

St. Mary's students raise funds to aid transplant patient

DANSVILLE — Students from St. Mary's School, 43 Elizabeth St., lent their hands — figuratively, that is — to an effort to raise \$2,100 toward medical expenses of Dick Dieter, a St. Mary's parishioner who had a successful heart transplant in Cleveland Jan. 18, 1996.

Each of the 120 kindergartners through fifth-graders was given 20 paper "hands" to sell for \$1 each to merchants on the town's Main Street. The children spent nine days selling the hands, and on the 10th day, Oct. 28, the children marched from the school to hang the hands in the

merchants' shop windows.

The students' march took place on National "Make a Difference Day."

Kim Mease, one of the effort's organizers, said in a press statement, "In today's society where we hear so much about the bad things kids are doing, doesn't it make you feel good to know that with the right guidance, kids want to help."

She added, "So many people have the attitude that their small efforts won't change the world. But our children saw that indeed, they could and did help change the lives in our community."

**Did You Know?**

When a death occurs out of town, many additional details arise that must be dealt with.

Upon notification of a death, the staff at Bartolomeo Funeral Home Inc., regardless of the distance will arrange for all necessary details in the most professional manner.

You can be confident that all of your concerns will be met with the same dignity and respect that have become our benchmark since 1922.

Presented by
Bartolomeo Funeral Home Inc.



1425 Lexington Avenue,
Rochester, NY 14606
conveniently located near 390

(716) 254-5400

Catholic Education: Worth The Reach.

You may have to reach a little deeper into your pockets, but a Catholic education is worth every penny. You can give your child a gift that lasts forever!

We give your children a strong education while helping them reach a better understanding of God and His love.

And since our schools are for all children, the advantages of a Catholic education are within reach for everyone.

Make an investment for your child that's safe, proven and affordable.

For more information, please contact the Catholic School of your choice or call 716/328-3210, ext. 296.

Support Catholic Schools