

## FEATURE

## Parenting

MONTHLY FEATURE



## Recent films reach market

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 USCC classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.



**'Jumanji'**  
Eye-popping fantasy adventure about a jungle wildlife board game which springs to life, threatening to destroy a whole town unless its players (notably Robin Williams) successfully complete the game. Director Joe Johnston provides some frightening thrills as spectacular special effects put humans at the mercy of rampaging animals and a deadly hunter. Frequent life-threatening menace and intermittent gunfire. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**'Dunston Checks In'**  
Goofy comedy in which chaos threatens to overtake a swanky Manhattan hotel when an orangutan trained to steal escapes his odious owner and is hidden by the mischievous son of the frazzled hotel manager (Jason Alexander). Director Ken Kwapis makes screwball show business out of manic monkey business in a generally genial movie of simian silliness. Slapstick violence, mild sexual innuendo and a vulgar expression. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

**'Sense and Sensibility'**  
Splendid adaptation of Jane Austen's 1795 tale of two devoted but emotionally dissimilar sisters (Emma Thompson and Kate Winslet) who endure unexpected heartbreak only to eventually triumph in securing suitable husbands. Director Ang Lee's spirited period piece offers frequent subtle humor in its wry observation of the characters and social conventions of the day. Romantic complications. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

## Couple adopts Chinese baby girl

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Jade Rood acquired some pretty sizable gifts for her first birthday: new parents and a new home.

Jade marked her May 24 birthday in Nanning, China, in the presence of her new parents, Wayne and Beth Rood — who had met her for the first time just a few days earlier. And on the evening of June 4, the Roods received an emotional greeting from family and friends upon their arrival at the Greater Rochester International Airport.

Jade is the first child for the Roods, who have been married for 18 years. The Churchville residents first applied for a Chinese baby in February 1995 through Holt International, an adoption agency based in Oregon. They received a picture of Jade last December and left May 15 to begin the three-week process of bringing her home from China.

The Roods are now working with the Catholic Family Center in Rochester for follow-up counseling. Holt International is one of four agencies affiliated with Catholic Family Center's adoption counseling and placement services.

Jade is the first Chinese baby to be acquired with the aid of CFC's adoption program. Kathy Brown, a CFC adoption senior case worker, predicts that adoption of Chinese children will increase in the Rochester area in upcoming years.

"The feeling is that Asian children are accepted in this culture," Brown said. She noted that, for example, the adoption of Korean babies has been very suc-



Mike Latona  
Beth and Jade Rood arrive at the Greater Rochester International Airport June 4.

cessful in Monroe County.

Brown added that the adoption procedure in China is not as difficult as it is in other countries.

Parents trying to adopt children from some South American countries, for instance, must remain in the countries — and away from their homes — for up to four weeks and also risk unsafe traveling conditions.

In China, babies are frequently put up for adoption because of governmental policy limiting families to one child each. If a couple's first baby is a girl, Brown explained, that child stands a greater threat of being abandoned due to a cultural belief that the ideal is to have a male child.

Jade was picked up by the Roods from a foster home in Nanning, a city in southern China. The Roods were among 14 families who received babies from the orphanage during this trip.

"It was very emotional for everyone," Beth said.

"For the kids, the parents — even the foster mothers," Wayne remarked.

Beth recalled that she and Wayne did not run into any problems with the people of China. In fact, she noted, the residents seemed to sense that Jade would have a better chance for a good life in the United States than in her homeland.

"People would come up and say 'lucky girl' in English," Beth remarked.

Now that Jade is happily at home, Beth said that the trip to China was well worth the effort.

"It was such a positive experience for us. We were glad we both traveled to see the country and see where she came from," Beth said.

Jade has apparently adjusted quickly to her new environment. She offered a steady display of smiles and laughs while enjoying a game of peck-a-boo with a visitor on a recent morning. She also ate plenty of Cheerios, and played with a cellular phone and a balloon proclaiming "It's a girl!"

"I can see the improvement every day. She gets a little more sure of herself," Beth remarked.

The Roods are looking forward to Jade's baptism next month at Churchville's St. Vincent DePaul Church, where Wayne and Beth are parishioners.

"It seems like we've had her forever," Beth said.

Wayne admits, however, that he's still adjusting to the time constraints brought on by parenting.

"I'm enjoying it. It's keeping me busy — the golf clubs are still in the garage and the boat is still in the back yard," he joked.

## Children can help us to rediscover our faith

There's a wonderful scene in the movie "The Wizard of Oz" in which Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion are on their way to get the witch's broom.

Their journey takes them through a dark and haunted forest. All of them are frightened. Then the Lion closes his eyes tightly, clutches his tail and says, "I do believe in spooks. I do believe in spooks. I do, I do, I do believe in spooks."

It's the fear and crisis of the moment that prompt the Lion's sudden belief in spooks. He believes that if the Wicked Witch sees how much he believes, she will spare him from harm.

Many of us have experienced a faith that is born of fear or desperation. It usually happens as we are going through a difficult time in our lives. When we believe that we can no longer control the events around us, our cries in the night echo the Cowardly Lion's: "I do believe in God, I do believe in God ... just help me through this one Lord and I'll do whatever you ask."

As Catholics, we know that our faith does not mean turning to God only in times of trouble. Once God has our attention, he asks for much more. We are not always paying close attention to his requests, but fortunately for us, he's a patient and forgiving God.

The 1994 Catechism of the Catholic Church is an impressive teaching tool to help us discern what God asks us to believe.



BY EILEEN MARX

## family matters

In the section on the profession of faith, "We Believe," the Catechism explains that because we receive the life of faith through the church, she is our mother. "As a mother who teaches her children to speak and so to understand and communicate, the Church our Mother teaches us the language of faith in order to introduce us to the understanding and the life of faith."

This section is especially meaningful to me. As a mother of two small children, I am already challenged and inspired by my children's questions about God and faith. There are times when we take our faith for granted. Certain teachings or prayers become rote. A faith that should be alive, joyful and meaningful becomes stale and hollow. But one of the blessings of having children is that you can rediscover and renew your faith through the eyes of your children. And as Jesus reminds us, this is

the way we enter the Kingdom of God.

By sharing our faith with our children, we are passing our faith on to others. By coming together as family, friends, parishioners, students or volunteers, we learn to better understand and deepen our faith. We have a responsibility to reach out to those who have lost their faith, to those who have never found their faith and to those who struggle to live their faith on a daily basis.

Our faith does not exist in a vacuum. I know many times in my own life it has been a friend's witness of faith, a priest's or sister's reflection on a Gospel reading, or a person's faith through illness or family crisis that has given life and meaning to my faith. Our faith is a gift from God. When we share our faith with others, it truly is a gift that keeps on giving.

Our faith in God does not bring us to our knees only during heartache or inspire us to raise our voices in thanksgiving to God only in times of joy. Through prayer, worship, sharing, reflection and study, we discover it is what guides and sustains us as we see the hand of God at work in our daily lives.

As we journey through our own dark forests, over our own bright rainbows, or down our own brick roads, our faith gives us the courage to say through it all, "I do believe in God."

## VACCINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

AGES 60 AND OLDER

\$75 HONORARIUM

For more information, call 338-4339 at Rochester General Hospital

## SCIENCE FUN CAMP

- 6 Weekly Sessions- July 8-August 16
- Designed for Youth 10-14 Years
- Explore "Biodiversity" — Habitats, Plants, Animals
- Hands-on Science Discovery Activities Plus Summer Recreation

Presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension.  
Call 461-1000 for registration information.



Cornell Cooperative Extension in Monroe County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

