

FEATURE



Hollywood Pictures Company

Danny Glover and Joe Pesci star as two buddies who win a fishing trip in the comedy adventure "Gone Fishin'."

Plots fish for laughs, bait with feeble lines

EW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each review includes the USCC rating, and, where available, the Motion Picture Association of America rating.

Gone Fishin'

Inept comedy about two disaster-prone pals (Joe Pesci and Danny Glover) on a Florida fishing trip which turns into a tedious hunt for a nasty killer. Directed by Christopher Cain, the slow-paced, dimwitted film is an unamusing mix of large-scale comic destruction and pathetically dumb humor. Slapstick violence, a menacing killer, coarse language. USCC classification: A-II — adults and adolescents. MPAA

rating: PG — parental guidance suggested.

Trial and Error

Feeble courtroom comedy in which an actor (Michael Richards) assists a drunken lawyer (Jeff Daniels) by taking his place in a trial which drags on witlessly until the actor falls for the prosecutor (Jessica Steen) and the lawyer beds a dreamy waitress (Charlize Theron). Director Jonathan Lynn treats the lightweight material in laborious, heavy-handed fashion. The chief drawback: the charmless principals who prove as bogus as the trial and as shallow as the plot. Sexual situations, occasional profanity. USCC classification: A-III — adults. MPAA rating: PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Book studies mentally retarded

Our Journey Home by Jean Vanier. Orbis Books (Maryknoll, N.Y., 1997). 251 pp., \$15.

Reviewed by Msgr. Charles Dollen
Catholic News Service

The history of our treatment of mentally retarded individuals is inhumane, at best, and barbaric at worst. At least today there is a concerted effort to remedy this situation, through the work of men like Jean Vanier and Dominican Father Thomas Philippe.

In 1964, Father Philippe introduced Vanier to the world of the mentally retarded. Vanier, ex-sailor, ex-philosophy professor, soon recognized that this was his apostolate. He bought a little cottage about 120 miles north of Paris, moved two young men in, and named the place L'Arche.

The name is a tribute to Noah's Ark, a refuge that saved humanity. In *Our Journey Home*, which is quite autobiographical, Vanier tells how much he had to learn from those he was trying to help. He had to learn how to love, how to form community, how to provide a true home where people could feel safe.

So important is that concept that Vanier chose to place "home" in the title. It is in the home that we rediscover our common humanity beyond the different walls the world imposes.

But this is much more than mere autobiography. The immense success of the movement, the great number of "assistants" and the rapid spread through five continents are recounted. Tribute is paid

to psychiatrists and psychologists who also gave of themselves generously. Praise is also given to Marie-Helene Mathieu, who co-founded the Faith and Light Communities in 1971 to treat patients who remained in their own homes.

The true, and sheer, drama of this important book comes from the wisdom that Vanier had garnered through 30 years of this work, a true apostolate. He discusses communion and woundedness, the real meaning of "human" and how it promotes true growth and the necessary environment.



**BOOK
REVIEW**

Almost 50 pages are devoted to the stages of life:

- Childhood, the time of trust.
- Adolescence, the age of searching, generosity and idealism.
- Adulthood, the time of settling down and responsibility.
- Old age, the time of serenity and loss.

The closing chapter is a moving appeal for peace, a peace that can only be achieved when we make peace with ourselves. The divisions and prejudices within each person must first be resolved if we are to have peace with those around us. Then this can be raised to community, political and world levels.

Vanier's anthropology, indeed his humanism, is firmly rooted in his Catholic faith, but L'Arche is not a "Catholic" movement. It is a truly human movement aiming at all that is most important in the term human potential.

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Msgr. Dollen is book review editor for The Priest magazine.

Upcoming

HEALTH

Publication Date: July 24 - Deadline: July 10

The Catholic Church's teaching on health-related issues stems from Scripture. This special supplement will offer readers a unique perspective on those issues while offering valuable information on modern health care programs.

EDUCATION

Publication Date: August 14 - Deadline: July 31

The Rochester Diocese has made lifelong Christian education a top priority. Thus, as schools and students gear up for the first day of school, the Courier will make an annual study of trends, developments and issues in education — from kindergarten to the continuing education of adults, from Catholic schools to religious education programs.

CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS

Publication Date: September 18 - Deadline: September 4

The Diocese of Rochester is home to numerous organizations for lay Catholics from fraternal and service groups to spiritual and prayer leagues. This special section will provide an opportunity for such groups to inform Courier readers about their histories, purpose and membership opportunities.

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