



# NEW CONNECTIONS

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## A Note from the Editor

In spite of the April snowstorms and blustery wind the trees outside my window are budding and beginning to flower, so it appears that spring is here! All too soon we will be reaching the end of the school year and anticipating summer activities.

As you contemplate your options for the summer, why not think about spending some time in the Jegen Center? We have a tremendous collection of books, videos and DVDs that are instructional, formative, and interesting. The place is comfortable and cool, and the people are hospitable! So find your way down when you would like a different kind of distraction! We are open from 8:30 to 4:30 on Monday through Friday, and we are willing to be here for you at other times when you call ahead and make an appointment with either Terrie or me, Sr. Judy. The phone number is 312-243-4562. Hope to see you over the summer!

Harcourt offers a kit for a Catholic VBS called Avalanche Ranch—A Wild Ride through God’s Word. An animated preview of this Western-themed VBS can be accessed at <http://your.harcourtreligion.com/vbs/index.html>. If you have speakers hooked up to your computer you will probably enjoy the catchy introduction even more. Harcourt is also the only one I found currently offering a Spanish VBS in collaboration with Group Publishing. Titled Fiesta! Edicion Espanol, Harcourt has adapted the Christian version to a Catholic audience. I found it on Group’s website at <http://www.groupvbs.com/2006/Fiesta/spanish.asp> but I didn’t find the Catholic version there. We have a copy at the Jegen Center if you are interested in looking at it and it will probably soon be up on Harcourt’s website.

Pflaum, well known for its Gospel Weeklies, has a special VBS program called Take the Plunge! Make a Splash with Jesus! A complete description can be accessed at <http://www.pflaum.com/catalog/childcat/vbs.htm>. As the title implies, the main theme is how God uses water, a common element, to teach some uncommon lessons.

Sadlier and Our Sunday Visitor both promote the VBS called The Great Bible Reef: Dive Deep into God’s Word. You will find it at <http://www.thevbsplace.org> where you can preview the program and its various aspects.

If you are looking for things to entertain the children at home, check out the Pauline Books and Media website for a variety of activities. At <http://www.myfriendmagazine.com> you can find interactive games, printable activities, and much more.

Another for Vacation Bible School comes from Growing With the Saints. They have developed two All-in-One Kits: St. Patrick and the Holy Trinity; and Assorted Saints and the Virtues of Faith, Hope and Love. Check them out at <http://www.growingwiththesaints.com>.

Liguori Publications also has come out with “an all new Vacation Bible School for ‘007” called SonForce Kids: Special Agents. Information on this can be found at <http://www.liguori.org/vbs>. The site has a creative demo you won’t want to miss.

The Jegen Center has review copies of most of the current VBS kits and some of the past ones that are still available for use. Come and browse!

## Summer Options and Vacation Bible School

Some parishes regularly run Vacation Bible Schools during the summer. These normally run for a couple of weeks. Sometimes they are organized according to age levels, and at other times they are done in large group settings. The idea of a Vacation Bible School was well-developed by other Christian religions prior to being adopted and adapted by the Catholic publishing companies. Currently there are a variety of VBS selections and formats that can help when developing your Vacation Bible School. In general, the VBS is an enrichment program, offering activities designed to animate the study of the faith. The following are some of the VBS options provided now in the Catholic venue.

So how do you keep the children from that incessant “I’m B-O-R-E-D!” The following websites offer suggestions either for Vacation Bible Schools or for other summertime activities. Check them out!

Benziger offers <http://www.mhschool.com/benziger/ktg/menu/summer/bored.htm> suggesting summer activities. They suggest that the parish hold a summer rally and offer ideas on how to organize it.

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## **Feature Films Available for Use**

With the summer programming of television and all its reruns, we often hear the outcry that there is nothing decent to watch. The Jegen Center has a selection of feature films and DVDs that have moral and religious themes to them. These can be checked out for use in your homes offering a healthy alternative to other viewing options. Listed below are some of the titles we have with copyright dates after 1990.



VC222840 **Armed With Hope; The Inspirational Story of John Foppe.** [1993]. This is a video about John Foppe, a young man born without arms. It presents parts of his everyday life as he shares his hopes, fears, and dreams. Viewers see how an armless man handles tasks that most people take for granted, such as driving a car or cracking an egg. His parents talk of how using a "tough love" approach played an important role in shaping John's values and attitude toward life. He has become a motivational speaker with speaking engagements all over the United States, speaking to all age groups. His life is an inspiring example of ways to turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones. Closed captioned.

VC232392 **Catholics** [1993]. In this video, Martin Sheen plays an emissary of the Pope. He comes to Ireland to persuade the Catholic clergy to conform to the "new" teachings of the Church. However, the priests and monks refuse to discard traditional ways and beliefs. Trevor Howard plays the rebellious abbot. Running time is ninety minutes.

VC224336 **Cigar Box Ray; Story of Father Ray Herman.** [2000]. This video tells the story of Father Ray Herman, an Iowa farm boy who eventually became a beacon of hope to thousands of people in Bolivia. Growing up on his parents' farm, he worked hard, went to college, and planned to be a farmer. During his college years, he felt called to the priesthood, and after a few years in a comfortable Iowa parish, asked to be sent to the missions where he could help the poorest of the poor. Father Ray spent ten years in a very remote part of Bolivia where he founded a school and a hospital. His life and work made a huge difference in the lives of thousands of some of the poorest people in the western hemisphere. After years of selfless work, he was mysteriously and violently murdered in 1973, but his love for the people remains visible still today. After his death, all of his earthly belongings fit into an ordinary cigar box. Running time is approximately 32 minutes.

VC231034 **Cry the Beloved Country** [1995]. Black and white find a common ground when faced with violence in this 1951 film starring Sidney Poitier.

VC235060 **Dances with Wolves.** [1990]. Rewarded for his heroism in the Civil War, Lt. John Dunbar wants to see the American frontier before it is gone. He is assigned to an abandoned fort, where a Sioux tribe is his only neighbor. Overcoming the language barrier and their mutual fear and distrust, Dunbar and the proud Indians gradually become friends. Eventually he falls in love with beautiful Stands With A Fist, a white woman raised by the tribe. He learns the culture of the Sioux, lives with them, and even experiences the breathtaking excitement of a buffalo hunt, but his knowledge of the fate which will ultimately befall the tribe torments him. Finally he is faced with a crucial decision that causes him to examine his heart and soul before making a heroic choice that determines his destiny. Closed captioned; running time is approximately 3 hours.

VC231016 **Dead Man Walking.** [1996]. Based on a true story. The convicted killer of two teenage lovers is preparing to end his life on death row. In response to a letter, Sister Helen Prejean visits Matthew and finds herself face-to-face with a killer who still pleads innocence. When the date is set for his execution, death by lethal injection, Poncelet asks Sister Helen to be his spiritual advisor and she agrees, little knowing the outrage that will follow her decision. The journey they undertake in search for truth is a very powerful and profound one.

VC231412 **Entertaining Angels, The Dorothy Day Story** [1996]. This video tells the story of social activist and journalist Dorothy Day. She lived a hard life, made many mistakes and endured the consequences of them, but had a burning desire to make a difference in the world. During the Depression, she vowed to help the homeless and poor, feed the hungry, and care for the sick all the time that she herself was living in poverty. Eventually she launched the activist newspaper Catholic Worker, and put the words she wrote into controversial action. Closed captioned; running time is a little under two hours; includes study guide.

VC224362 **For God and Country; Father Alan Schmitt.** [2003]. This video tells the inspirational story of Father Al Schmitt, an Iowa priest who was the first U.S. chaplain killed in World War II. He was one of the 2000+ casualties at Pearl Harbor, but before he died, he saved 12 men trapped inside the capsizing USS Oklahoma. Running time is approximately 22 minutes.

VC231044 **Gandhi; Part 1.** [1990].

VC235781 **Gandhi; Part 2.** [1990]. Mahatma Gandhi was not a ruler of nations, nor did he have scientific gifts. Yet, this small, modest man did what others before him could not; he led an entire country to freedom and gave his people hope. This film conveys, in stirring detail, Gandhi's life, principles and power, which explode on the screen with vivid scenes such as the horrific massacre at Amritsar where the British opened fire on fifteen thousand unarmed men, women, and children, and the dramatic march to the sea where Gandhi led thousands of his fellow Indians to prove that sea salt belonged to all, and was not only a British commodity. It is in two parts; running time for each part approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes.

VC223952 **The Gift of Hope; The Tony Melendez Story.** This video is about singer and guitarist Tony Melendez who was born without arms, and how this has not stopped him from enjoying life to the fullest. Tony was born in 1962 with this birth defect as a result of his mother's taking the prescription drug Thalidomide. Today he is known around the world for his singing and for playing the guitar with his feet. He was thrown into the limelight when he performed before Pope John Paul II in Los Angeles in 1987. Visibly moved by Tony's performance, the Pope rushed into the audience to embrace him. In this video, viewers meet Tony and see him perform in many locations. He is a powerful speaker who frequently gives presentations to young people on topics such as drug abuse, importance of self-esteem, disability awareness, cultural awareness, and family support. Running time is approximately 42 minutes.

VC231035 **Go Tell it on the Mountain** [1995]. The journey of salvation and understanding are found as a Black American family moves from the rural South to Harlem.

VC232414 **The Hiding Place,** [1990]. This video is based on a true story from World War II. Filmed in Holland and other authentic European locations, the film traces the lives of Corrie ten Boom, her father, and sister, Betsie, from the quiet years before World War II to their work with the "underground" in helping to save the lives of countless Jewish families. The ultimate price they pay for their efforts is arrest and imprisonment in one of Nazi Germany's most dreaded concentration camps. In the midst of monstrous cruelty and suffering, these sisters must face the greatest test of their faith in God and their ability to love mankind. Running time is two hours, 25 minutes.

VC235380 **Hospedando Angeles; La Historia de Dorothy Day.** [1997]. Dorothy Day no es una santa. Ella vive la vida, comete errores, acepta las consecuencias. Pero el fuego que arde en su interior no se puede contener. Dorothy quiere hacer una diferencia. Durante la Depresion, ella promete ayudar a los vagabundos, alimentar a los hambrientos, cuidar de los enfermos. Se dice facil. No es facil hacerlo cuando solo cuenta con 97 centavos en una lata vieja. Sin embargo Dorothy persiste, caminando en aguas tormentosas de la fe.

VC235725 **Iron Will** [1994]. Based on a true-life story, a brave young man is thrust into adulthood as he and his courageous team of sled dogs embark on a grueling and treacherous cross-country marathon. Together they race through the frozen wilderness, carrying hopes of winning the \$10,000 grand prize that will save his family from financial ruin. With great determination and sheer iron will, they face almost impossible odds and hardships along the trail to fulfill this dream. Closed captioned; running time is almost two hours.

VC231078 **Joan of Arc.** [1992]. A Hollywood All-Star version of the story of the Maid of Orleans.

VC235872 **Joshua** [2002]. When Joshua moves to the outskirts of Auburn, he awakens the curiosity of the sleepy town. The locals are not quite sure what to make of him. They do not know who he is or where he came from, but no one can shake the feeling that they have known him for years. Known only by his first name, his wisdom and compassion place him at the center of the town's attention, which intensifies as he shatters prejudice and misconception, and even seems to perform miracles. Despite his benevolence and selfless work in the community, some remain suspicious, thinking that no one in today's world would do something for nothing -- just what is Joshua up to? In this gentle movie, the answer to this question is nearly as extraordinary as the discovery of that same transforming power in each person's heart, Closed captioned; running time is approximately an hour and a half.

VC225648 **Journey of the Heart; The Life of Henri Nouwen** [2003]. This video looks at the life of Henri Nouwen, an unassuming, charismatic scholar who embarked on a personal pilgrimage that led him to L'Arche, a community of people with developmental disabilities. The documentary style video features an inspiring conversation with Nouwen shot just a year before his death, and interviews with key friends, prominent colleagues, and family members.

VC230925 **Marcelino Pan y Vino.** [1994]. En un pueblo pequeno nace un nino cuya madre lo abandona en la puerta de un convento franciscano, Marcelino; crece al lado de los monjes conoce un amigo nuevo y se apiada de el porque lo ve crucificado.

VC231036 **Native Son.** [1995]. The story of a poverty stricken young black man who obtains a job as a chauffeur to a wealthy white family. When he accidentally kills his employer's daughter violence and racism ensue.

VC235159 **Patch Adams** [1999]. Patch Adams is a doctor who does not look, act, or talk like most doctors; to him humor is the best medicine. He is willing to do just about anything to make his patients laugh, including jeopardizing his own career. Based on a true story, this video combines humor with an inspiring story that transcends the traditional comedy. Closed captioned; running time is approximately 2 hours; PG-13 rating.

VC232075 **A Raisin in the Sun.** [1996]. Classic story of Chicago ghetto family, caught between the reality of their surroundings and a piece of the American Dream. African American setting. Celebrates the human spirit.

VC231311 **Reggie's Prayer.** [1997]. Football superstar retires to become coach and history teacher at an inner city high school.

VC231042 **Rudy.** [1994]. This video drama, based on a true story, is about a young man named Rudy who will not let anything get in the way of him realizing his dreams. All his life, people have told Rudy he is not good enough or smart enough or big enough, but still he wants to play football for Notre Dame University. His family expects he will follow in their footsteps and work in the local steel mill, and for four years after high school he does. Then, against great odds and obstacles, he enters Notre Dame, and gets on the football team. Good story about the power of dreams and the triumph of a "regular" person. Closed captioned; running time is approximately 112 minutes.



*If you know someone who would like to volunteer some time at the Jegen Center, we can use all kinds of skills! Call Sr. Judy for more information and to set up an appointment.*

VC231041 **Schindler's List; Part 1.**

VC235683 **Schindler's List; Part 2.** [1993]. This film presents the true story of Oskar Schindler, member of the Nazi party, womanizer, and war profiteer who also saved the lives of more than 1,100 Jews during the Holocaust. It is the triumph of one man who made a big difference in world history, and the drama of those who survived one of the darkest chapters in human history because of what Schindler did. This is a 2-part set; in Black and White with Color segments; total running time is approximately 3 hours and twenty minutes.

VC231019 **The Secret Garden** [1992]. The classic story of an orphan and her rediscovery of life with the help of her friends in her secret garden.

VC231317 **The Spitfire Grill.** [1996]. A superb tale of hope and healing. A former female convict chooses a small Maine town in which to reside.

VC235155 **Whale Rider.** [2002]. This video is a story about a small Maori village facing a crisis when the heir to the leadership of the Ngati Konohi dies at birth and is survived only by his twin sister, Pai. Although disregarded by her grandfather and shunned by the village people, twelve-year-old Pai remains certain of her calling, and trains herself in the ways and customs of her people. With remarkable grace, Pai finds the strength to challenge her family, and embrace a thousand years of tradition in order to fulfill her destiny. Closed captioned; running time is approximately an hour and forty-five minutes; PG-13 Rating for brief language and a momentary drug reference.

### **Two Recent Acquisitions:**

DVD220067 **Joan of Arc: Child of War, Soldier of God**

DVD230065 **March of the Penguins**

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