



MARTYRS' SHRINE

Weekly Church Bulletin | August 10th 2019 | 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Watch & Pray: Retreat with Movies - Week 2 reflection by Fr. George Vallocheril, SJ

'Children of Heaven' is from Iran. It is about a boy who loses his sister's shoes. He takes them to the cobbler for repairs, and on the way home, when he stops to pick up vegetables for his mother, a blind trash collector accidentally carries them away. Of course, the boy, named Ali, is afraid to tell his parents. His sister, named Zahra, wants to know how she is supposed to go to school without shoes. The children feverishly write notes to each other, right under their parent's noses. The answer is simple: Zahra will wear Ali's sneakers to school every morning, and then run home so that Ali can put them on for his school in the afternoon. But Zahra cannot always run fast enough, and Ali, who is a good student, gets in trouble for being late to class. And there is a heartbreaking scene where Zahra solemnly regards her own precious lost shoes, now on the feet of the rag picker's daughter.

"Children of Heaven" is about a home without unhappiness. It is about a brother and sister who love one another, instead of fighting. About situations any child can identify with. In this film from Iran, as one American critic puts it, one can find a sweetness and innocence that shames the land of Mutant Turtles, Power Rangers and Godzilla or other manufactured entertainments and violent video games. Children of heaven is very nearly a perfect movie for children, which means that adults also will like it. It lacks the cynicism and smart-mouth attitudes of so much of Hollywood or Bollywood entertainment for kids. To see this movie is to be reminded of a time when the children in movies were children and not miniature adults.

Children of Heaven is a beautiful, Oscar-nominated Iranian film that's both a fascinating story of contemporary Iran and a universal coming-of-age tale. It is set in Iran and the characters speak Farsi. Otherwise everything in the movie is universal because it is a wonderful film about a family doing their best to pull together in spite of great financial difficulty. It is an incredible coming-of-age film, a beautifully rendered encapsulation of the trials and suspense of childhood no matter where you live. It's a moving story about the universal bonds of family as well as the specific circumstances of a poor family trying to make ends meet in Iran. The climax of the film is exciting reinterpretation of the "comeback kid" sports movie, and it takes many unanticipated twists and turns. 'Children of Heaven' was the first Iranian film to earn an Academy Award nomination, and with good reason. The themes and characters are universal and the story is as exciting as it is poignant. It is one of those magical films that breaks down perceived barriers and differences between cultures. It certainly is an enlightening and entertaining cinematic journey. The theme of this movie is so universal there is not a child who will not be wide-eyed with interest and suspense. There are scenes and situations in the film that are more absorbing for children than a movie about Terminators and Godzilla's or other manufactured science fiction entertainments.

The film has a wonderful scene where Ali and his father bicycle from the almost medieval streets and alleys of the old town to the most modern and high-rising luxury homes where the rich people live. The father hopes for work as a gardener, but he is intimidated by the challenge of speaking into the intercoms on the gates of the wealthy. His son jumps in, with offers of pruning, weeding, spraying and trimming. It is a great triumph. The father and the son feel elated. It certainly is a privileged and grace filled moment in the movie. And then there is a footrace for the poor children for very attractive prizes. The top winner gets two weeks in a summer camp and other prizes. Ali doesn't care. He wants to win third place because the prize is a new pair of sneakers, which he can give to his beloved sister whose shoes he lost.

After watching 'Children of Heaven' you may speak to yourself or to your children or grandchildren about how daily life in Iran is depicted in the film, and what surprises you with the daily realities of Iranian children, their parents, friends, neighbors? What similarities and differences do you see in the Iranian schools these children attend compared to the schools your children attend? Aside from the poverty they must contend with and the cultural differences, how is the relationship between Ali and his sister Zahra similar to that of brothers and sisters everywhere? How do the characters in Children of Heaven Demonstrate perseverance and team work?



LE SANCTUAIRE DES MARTYRS

Bulletin hebdomadaire | 10 août, 2019 | 19e dimanche du temps ordinaire

TIAWENK FUNDRAISING DINNER & AUCTION

Our 6th annual Tiawenk fundraising dinner & auction will be held at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre in Midland, on **Saturday, September 28th** at 5:00 PM. Tickets are available at the Pastoral and Administrative Office or online for \$95.00. The ticket purchaser is eligible for a \$45.00 tax receipt per ticket.

This year's Tiawenk proceeds will be directed towards the Fire Suppression System.

WATCH & PRAY - RETREAT WITH MOVIES

Join Fr. George Vallocheril, SJ for a retreat with movies where you will be invited to learn to use movies for prayer and spiritual nourishment.

The retreat will be held every Wednesday evening in August starting at 6:00 PM in the St. Ignatius Chapel and will include a brief introduction to the film with reflection points, followed by the screening, and group discussion. Tickets are \$10.00 and include all evenings. Tickets and info: www.martyrs-shrine.com/wap

TOONIE CHALLENGE

The Church of St. Joseph was not constructed for year-round use. For that reason, the Church was never insulated, and is not heated. A specialized dry-air fire suppression system is required. Our system is in need of an update including replacing its pipes that are at the end of their life. Please support this project through our toonie challenge. If every pilgrim who visited Martyrs' Shrine gave a toonie, we would reach our fundraising goal. Yellow envelopes are available at the rear of the Church for anyone who would like their gift recorded and included on their annual donations receipt for income tax purposes.

ONLINE GIFT SHOP HAS LAUNCHED!

Martyrs' Shrine has been working to create an online store for the purchase of religious goods sold in our Gift Shop. We hope to make religious gifts more accessible to those who can't journey to our site, and more convenient for those who can.

Browse our online shop at www.martyrs-shrine.com/giftshop.
Your feedback is always appreciated!

Visit our Website:
www.martyrs-shrine.com

MASS INTENTIONS †

10-SAT

- 9:00 Mr. & Mrs. Le Blanc - Wedding Anniversary
10:30 Elsie Castro
12:00 Leandro & Nanelita Dimaculangan & Family
7:30 Veronica Jordan Vincent +

11-SUN

- 9:00 Martyrs' Shrine Association
10:30 Hurmuz Miho
12:00 Kazimierz and Maria Pasko +
7:30 Ratna and Chris de Fonseka for thanksgiving & intention

12-MON

- 9:00 Domenico & Angela Cantisani +
10:30 Lucy King +
12:00 Mahan Rajendra +
7:30 Mr. Roman Gajkowski

13-TUE

- 9:00 Martyrs' Shrine Association
10:30 Margaret Towners
12:00 James Sherlock & Krystina Binkley + Millecent Stanley and Shiromi Fernando +

14-WED

- 9:00 Mrs. Grace Gajkowski
10:30 Tina and Andrew Caruk
12:00 Patrick John Noon +
3:00 (St. Ignace) Anabella Alvarez Perrone and Family - healing
7:30 Martyrs' Shrine Association

15-THU

- 9:00 Michael & Aurita Fernandes +
10:30 Monsignor Joao Cla - 80th Birthday
12:00 Christopher Bannon +
7:30 Martyrs' Shrine Association

16-FRI

- 9:00 Martyrs' Shrine Association
10:30 Jack and Mary Brennan +
12:00 Gregory John Forbes +
7:30 Ovidio Pierobon+