

*Before dropping, please save as:*

**Lastname.Firstname.CatholicTreasureExtraCredit.ItemName.doc**



**Name:** Luke Kolar

**Class:** 7MO **Date:** 1/17/13

**Saint of the Day:** St. Anthony of Egypt  
(Pray for me!)

**EXTRA CREDIT**  
(LOTS of points possible!)

**Instructions:**

- Put on your Catholic goggles and discover some Catholic treasure! ("Catholic Treasure" = Anything you find that can teach or show you something about God, faith, theology, saints, etc.)
  - Your Catholic Treasure can come from the news, a song, a memory, an interaction, a movie, etc.
  - Answer the questions below.
  - Follow the saving and dropping instructions at the top of this page.
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**1. What kind of Catholic Treasure did you find?**

I watched the movie "The Green Mile" as part of my Catholic treasure hunt.

**2. What did you learn? AND/OR What are some good Jesus-related things that you can take away from this?**

First of all, the movie tells the story from the viewpoint of Paul Edgecomb, a prison guard on an execution block called "The Green Mile" [if you have seen the movie or read the novel, you can just skip my summary]. On one fateful day, George, a guard at the green mile of whom Paul cannot fire because he is related to an important government official who is basically their boss, brings in John Coffey, a huge, extremely innocent (he is afraid of the dark), kind man who is accused of murdering two girls. John Coffey is later revealed to have healing and other supernatural powers (like someone we know). When John Coffey heals people, he breathes out what appears to be flies or dust which represents their disease. Meanwhile, another prisoner is marched in called "Wild Bill." It is never revealed what he did to end up in jail. George and Wild Bill hate each other after Wild Bill grabs George by the collar through the cell door and George pees his pants. There are also several other men guarding the prison, including the warden, who's wife has a brain tumor (which John miraculously heals later in the film), and a French prisoner, who owns a mouse named Mr. Jingles. When George executes the French prisoner (who seems truly sorry for his sins), he purposely does not soak the sponge (out of pure evil) that has to go between the prisoner's head and the electricity generator on the electric chair. This causes the French man to die a painful, burning death rather than a quick, painless death. John Coffey can somehow feel the French prisoner's pain, and he sends part of his powers to the mouse, Mr. Jingles, as he is screaming in pain. The guards and Paul see what George did, but they did not tell because George promised he would leave after he was put in charge of an execution. Later in the film, after the guards are aware of John's powers after he heals a pain of Paul's, they sneak him out to heal the

warden's wife. As they are sneaking John out, Wild Bill grabs John's arm through the cell door with a sinister look on his face and will not let go. After they have John heal the warden's wife's brain tumor, they sneak John back into the cell. John has been coughing for a while because he has not yet breathe out the disease (the flies and dust) when George storms in confused yelling, "What is going on?!" John grabs him and breathes the disease into George. The prison guards are in a daze, confused as to what is going on, when George, who seems to be dizzy and looks like he is going to faint, without thinking, shoots Wild Bill in the chest and Wild Bill dies. George faints, and, after he is unconcious, breathes out the flies and dust the John infected him with. It then shows The guards carrying Wild Bill out of the cell and George confusedly looking through the window of a mental hospital where he has been sent. Later, the guards question John as to why he infected George with the dust and flies, and he said that it was because they had to be punished for what they did. John explains that when Wild Bill grabbed his arm on the way to heal the warden's wife, John could see the evil in Bill's heart and he could see that it was really Bill who had killed the two children. John grabs Paul's hands and the events begin to flash before Paul's eyes, how the reason the search party thought it was John was because he was crying, exclaiming, "I couldn't take it back!" meaning he couldn't save them from death because they had already been killed by Bill. Finally, in the last section of the film, the guards ask John if he really wants to be executed, and he says he is ready. Paul and the guards lead him to the electric chair room, where a crowd of people related to the victims of the crime John was framed for committing. The crowd shouts mean things to him, and the guards well up with tears. Paul cries as he has to put the sponge and the electric chair hemet on John's head. Paul says in a sad tone for the man to start the electric chair, and the guards all cry as the sparks fly from the overhead lights and the audience yells at John. The story cuts off and an older Paul was explaining the story the entire time to his elderly girlfriend she is confused because an aspect of story didn't make sense because he would have to be really old to have done that job, and he leads her to a shack where an old Mr. Jingles is living and he explains that he is 108 years old and that John had to give him his powers in order for Paul to see the truth (when the events of the murder flashed before his eyes) and that John accidently gave Mr. Jingles some of his powers when the French prisoner died, and that one of the powers is old age. Then the movie ends.

You may have already seen a connection to Christianity. Let me compare some of the characters/themes of the story to the story of Jesus... John, of course is Jesus/God. He had to die for the sins of all of us and Judas, who is Wild Bill. Judas turned Jesus in just as Wild Bill framed John. Sin and the devil killed Judas because Judas ended up hanging himself, and George Wild Bill. George is the devil. John basically put George in that mental hospital, and God put the devil in hell. The guards are the disciples. They pretended that John was just like any other prisoner and didn't even speak up for him. Paul is Peter, the rock. Jesus passed His powers and the Church on to Peter just as John passed his powers on to Paul so he could live to tell the story and the truth. John is just like Jesus because the crown of thorns He wore is the electric chair helmet John wore. Just as lighting struck the earth on Jesus' crucifixion, the sparks flew from the overhead lights during John's execution. Both John and Jesus are sinless and have the innocence of a child (because Paul is scared of the dark) and both have healing powers. But Jesus cannot save us from going to hell, just as John couldn't save those children from dying

because Wild Bill murdered them. Only we can make that choice; God gave us free will. They are sad and wish that they could stop us. John proves this when he mourns over Wild Bill's sins/the two dead children. But John is his own person. He cannot control what we choose to do. He already died for Wild Bill's sins and Jesus died for all of our sins. It is up to us to follow in their example. This is a terrific movie and I plan on reading Stephen King's novel of which this movie was based on. But if anyone wants to read a less scary, nonfiction book just like this there is only one book to turn to: The Bible.