

# More Letters to the Editor

## Blue Army Explained

Editor:  
"The Blue Army—what is it?"

It is a spiritual crusade, a movement of prayer and devotion in answer to Our Lady's request at Fatima. It was inaugurated in this country by Msgr. Harold Colgan of Plainfield, N.J., and has spread since 1947 all over the world. Within six years the membership reached more than five million in thirty-three countries, and it has been spreading ever since.

In 1950, Msgr. Colgan was received by Pope Pius XII with these words: "As the world leader against communism, I bless you and all members of the Blue Army." He later was received by Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI.

The Blue Army has recently, through its representatives, transported five Pilgrim Virgin statues into other countries, even beyond the Iron Curtain.

Join the Blue Army crusade of prayer! A pledge and daily morning offering are all that is required. We have formed a chapter here in Rochester. For further information contact Mrs. Mary Kelly, president, 7 Harwood Lane, East Rochester (586-1664), or Miss Katherine Sullivan, 1 Lilac Drive, Rochester 14620, (244-2447).

(Miss) Katherine Sullivan

## Coupons vs. Good Reading

Editor:  
I am pleased that the Star markets advertise in our Catholic Courier. On Sept. 30 I could clip the coupons without destroying interesting important articles on the reverse side. But on Oct. 7, clipping the coupons will mutilate Father Hempel's informative article. I pass on my copy to a non-Catholic and I would appreciate your arranging the coupons as you did in the Sept. 30 issue.

Eleanor Wunder  
Garford Road  
Rochester

Editor's Note: Mrs. Wunder is not the first reader to comment on this suggestion. Unfortunately, we have no control over where the coupons are placed and correct makeup necessitates the reverse page's format being as it is. Our advertising manager, however, will discuss the matter with Star Markets.

## Candidate's School Plan

Editor:  
I can understand that because of limitations of space you were able to print but a very small segment of my position regarding repeal of the so-called "Blaine Amendment" in your Oct. 7 issue. However, because of the very importance of this issue, I would like to make known to your readers my position and positive plan for solution to the problem.

I am aware and concerned about the financial plight of our diocesan school districts in New York State. I am aware of the desire by many parents to have religious education available for their children. I am also aware of the need to maintain separation of church and state for the very same reason that

prompted so many of our early settlers to come to this country.

To give false hope to our Catholic friends that repeal of the "Blaine Amendment" would make possible "fair share" state aid to private schools would do a great disservice to our Catholic families whose children now go to parochial school, and would only tend to polarize another segment of our community.

What I seem to hear from those who support repeal of the "Blaine Amendment" is that in all fairness, state aid should be given for that portion of secular education made available to students attending school in the diocesan school district.

My proposed plan would do just that, but in a manner that I feel would not violate the First Amendment to our U.S. Constitution. My plan would do the following:

1. Permit all children, whose parents so desire, the opportunity to attend classes for secular education in a public school which would, of course, receive state aid on an equitable basis.

2. Permit these children, whose parents so desire, the opportunity to attend sectarian classes for religious education in the same school (whose classrooms would be rented by the religious denomination involved) the cost for which would be minimal and which would be borne by the parents.

We must strengthen our educational system and at the same time make available for all children religious instruction in the religion of their choice so that we may strengthen the moral fibre of society. These goals shall receive my utmost priority as a New York State assemblyman.

Stanley C. Marcus  
Democrat-Liberal  
Candidate  
State Assembly, 132nd  
District

## Hard Answers On Abortion

Editor:  
Hard answers to Father Daniel Tormey's "hard questions" on abortion legislation and on Catholic community responses to social obligations of behavior and attitudes have been given repeatedly by constant Church teachings.

These teachings have recently been enunciated by Pope Paul VI and our Bishops and have appeared in the Courier-Journal. Pope Paul VI's Humanae Vitae is clear, unambiguous regarding attitudes on contraceptives, but this concrete, hard answer is rejected by many and ignored by others. During this week Pope Paul VI restated the constant Church teaching on abortion and the news media emphasized that abortion is still wrong even when the mother's life is in jeopardy; a hard answer and a clear teaching!

Faithful Catholics firmly believe that Jesus Christ is our Invisible Head Who is acting through His Church, through His voice of authentic Church teachings. Our mission is to seek and witness the will of God—not our will. One must choose between accepting Jesus Christ completely or choosing on the basis of personal preferences rooted in faith of disciplines of knowledge.

We cannot serve two masters; each gives different, incompatible answers. We cannot avoid choosing a master. We must choose faith and service in the Light of Jesus, or faith

and service in the Light of Reason. Lucifer's Light of Reason brightens the broad way "that leads to destruction, and many are there who enter that way" (Matt. 7:13). Our Lord teaches that a wise man is one who hears His words and acts on them (Matt. 7:24); there is no rock foundation for faith in reason.

The hard answer to Father Daniel Tormey's questions on future responses of the Catholic community, have been answered above, and seem obvious. It is no more difficult to see the hard answer than the daily experiences with so-called Catholics who do not accept Church teachings on abortion and reject its teachings like Humanae Vitae.

Joseph J. Murray  
38 Wyndover Road  
Rochester

## Other Side Of Question

Editor:  
Congratulations to Father Daniel Tormey. Finally somebody has spoken out on the other side of the abortion law reform.

I worked for three years in a large metropolitan General Hospital Laboratory. Many of the people in the hospital were "charity patients". I saw many young women—many of them mothers with four or five children — wheeled in with septic perforated wombs — bleeding to death — the result of a do-it-yourself job with a knitting needle or the handiwork of some back street high priced abortionist — who in turn pays the Mafia for protection.

I don't know what the answer is—certainly abortion is wrong — any abortion—but at least with abortion law reform—fewer young mothers are dying — back street butchers and their Mafia backers aren't getting rich and fresh human blood

desperately needed for other purposes is being saved.

I agree that sex education in schools and a change in the church's attitude on contraception is essential

Mrs. Joseph Novak  
Hanshaw Road  
Ithaca

## Peace Mass Gratitude

Editor:  
I want to thank all who participated in the recent peace Mass at the Highland Bowl. I am truly aware of the number of individuals and the varied

types of persons who were brought together in this common cause.

I am especially grateful to Bishop Hogan for celebrating the liturgy with us, to Mrs. Raymond Hensler, Dr. Robert McLoughlin, and Peter Kress, who represented RACL and to John Bittner, who represented the Knights of St. John.

I single out both of these organizations together with the Sisters of Mercy who were so cooperative in working with the Legion of Mary to make the Peace Mass possible. May the success of that day be measured by the efforts of God's people to establish peace wherever and whenever possible.

Father William Trott,  
Spiritual Director,  
Legion of Mary

## Salting the Earth

### In Gratitude

By Father John Hempel

A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to make my annual retreat at the Trappist Monastery, Piffard. Fortunate not only because it was a chance for spiritual renewal, but also fortunate insofar as I was able once again to see the relevance of the contemplative life in a hyper-activated society.

Our world has become a beehive of activity of cosmic proportions. We find ourselves flailing about in an effort to sustain what we have of this world's goods, eager to have more, but too often heedless of the fact that we have left so many behind with but the minimum.

The expression "stop the world, I want to get off," could be applicable to both those who struggle to have so little and those who burn themselves out struggling for so much.

The contemplative has voluntarily found a life which incorporates a deep sense of prayer with dedicated prayerful work. From this pursuit

there comes a peace close to that which the world cannot give, but that which only Christ can give.

The price for this is very dear, for it demands a life and spirit of sacrifice far beyond that which most people are willing to make. All this is in union with the absolute ideals outlined by Christ as He challenged the rich young man to perfection.

As I reflect upon this renewal experience, I could not help but realize how much I had become dependent upon the material for a solution of the great problems of our age. Hopefully, all of us will find a closer relationship with our formal prayer life and material assets at our disposal.

Above all I am grateful to all contemplatives for possibly making up for the deficiencies in my formal prayer life as I so often find myself like a Don Quixote struggling against "windmills," seeking the "impossible dream."

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