



AP/Wide World Photos

Peaceful pageantry?

Assisted by her grandchildren Sam and Ellie LeBlong, first lady Barbara Bush puts a star atop the National Christmas Tree at the Ellipse in Washington, D.C., Nov. 30. The tree, part of the 1990 Pageant of Peace, will be lit by President and Mrs. Bush on Dec. 13.

'Sexist' letters violate fairness and church teachings

To the editors:

A little over a year ago I wrote the *Catholic Courier* regarding its editorial policy. The policy states that only letters written in the "spirit of fair play" will be printed. After reading the letters from Dorothy Williams and John F. Starkweather (*Catholic Courier*, Nov. 29). I wonder once again what constitutes "fair play." I am especially concerned about

letters which resort to name-calling and irrational statements. In particular, I am compelled to raise the issue of discrimination against women when such letters are printed. One has to ask if letters exhibiting other forms of discrimination are printed as well?

The bottom line is that sexism is a sin which has oppressed women—and men—for centuries. To print letters which lash

out at women is to print letters which are blatantly sexist. In printing the letters, the sin of sexism is perpetuated rather than discrimination elucidated for the general public. Other areas of discrimination are treated far differently in my estimation. For instance, would the *Catholic Courier* print a letter which is blatantly racist, anti-Semitic, pornographic or obscene? Most likely not. However, you continue to print letters which defame and demean women.

If you decry sexism in the same that you decry all other forms of discrimination, then it is time to stop printing such inflammatory letters. There is not a hierarchy of values when it comes to discrimination. At a time when the oppression of women is in the forefront in both church and society the *Catholic Courier* has a moral responsibility

to expose the sin of sexism for what it is—a grave injustice which diminishes the life of both women and men. In the name of justice please re-evaluate your definition of "fair play."

Sandra Clark Arrington
Sandringham Road
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: We have no doubt but that we sometimes err in the application of the "fair play" clause of our Letters Policy, which was intended to protect individuals from deliberate misrepresentation and/or vicious personal attack.

Still, one person's enforcement of policy may well be someone else's censorship. Thus, whenever the potential for error exists, we choose to let that error fall on the side of freedom of expression.

Rules exist for displaying of flags

To the editors:

We read the letter in the October 11 issue concerning the presence of the flag in the Church. Unfortunately the November 1 issue with response by Jerry Helfer ("Flags symbolize 'divinely established' authority") was misplaced and we did not read it until this week. His response was excellent. Here is a bit of information that some people do not know about. The instructions regarding flying and placing the American flag. If two flags are put on the same pole, the American flag must be on top. The exception in the rules is the Christian flag which is to be in the top position. On interior positions the rule for Churches is that the Christian flag is to be on the right side at the front of the sanctuary so long as it is not on the altar. On the altar it

is to be on the right side of those facing the audience. The right side being the side of honor, in both cases.

The incident in the Scriptures about Jesus, the Pharisees and the Roman coin where they tried to catch Him did not work as He told them to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's, tells us about his feelings. Our belief based on Jesus' teaching above and elsewhere, are that we should obey our governments—City, County, State and National insofar as they do not interfere with our Christian beliefs. Thus we believe it is appropriate to have both flags in the Church when they are properly placed.

Lucille and Gordon Hollis
Rockview Terrace
Rochester

Writer distorted image of sisters

To the editors:

I take great offense at the letter from Dorothy Williams (Nov. 29) about people who are supposedly disrupting our Roman Catholic Church. First of all, dear Dorothy, "Judge not, least ye be judged."

Second of all, when you include the Sisters—nuns—in this faith bashing business, my heart starts to pound and my blood pressure rises! For the last 10 years I have worked side by side with the Sisters of St. Joseph in our Catholic Schools. The Sisters have allowed me to become a "companion on the journey" of Faith with them as an Agregée. The Sisters I know

work for the Lord and the Lord alone. Not one sister is working for personal gratification. The Sisters share their gifts so many ways to fulfill whatever people's needs are TODAY. Every time I feel my Faith weaken, it is a Sister who holds me up and carries me along and shares my burden with me.

I don't know where you get your information, but get to know a Sister of St. Joseph or an Agregée and you might be writing a different letter to the editor in a very short time.

Sandra Schading
Lyceum Street
Geneva

Boycott the TGA, but give to other charities

To the editors:

Now that we are in the middle of the (Thanks Giving Appeal) drive and many of us are balking at supporting Bishop Clark's and the Diocesan Organization. I fear that this reaction to the Bishop and his methods will adversely impact the amount of money available to support the many charitable causes in the community.

May (we) suggest that instead of a zero contribution consider contributing directly to the charity or cause or your choice. With the rise in unemployment, rise in prices

and decline in the national economy organizations and charities more than ever need our support. Consider a direct contribution to a food cupboard program, a daily bread fund or the charity of your choice.

You can still protest the Diocesan's actions however don't protest the cause of charity. Consider an alternative charity rather than no contribution at all.

Karen and Ray Brecker
Culver Parkway
Rochester

CATHOLIC COURIER

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, President
Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Gen. Mgr.
Karen M. Franz, Editor/Asst. Gen. Mgr.

1150 Buffalo Road • Rochester, New York 14624 • 716/328-4340

Editorial Department:

Richard A. Kiley, Managing Editor
Lee Strong, Staff Writer • Rob Cullivan, Staff Writer
Barbara Ann Homick, Staff Writer
Babette G. Augustin, Photographer

Business Department:

Mary E. Bittner, Office Manager • Bernie Puglisi, Advertising Manager
Jeanne A. Morin, Circulation Mgr. • Kathy Welsh, Ad. Account Executive

Production Department:

Lorraine Hennessey, Graphics Mgr. • Michael Fleckenstein, Graphic Artist