

Citizens must support U.S. military personnel

To the editors:

"Naked aggression, jobs, oil, lifestyles, way of life, Nuclear power," make up the menu of reasons the Bush Administration has given to justify their premature deployment of over 200,000 of our military to Saudi Arabia the most oppressive of nations. I'll add the real reasons — Greed and Power — Money is replaceable, power changes, lives cannot be replaced.

It has been 4 months since the deployment of our precious men and women to Saudi Arabia. Since that time, it appears lifestyles of the American people haven't been affected at all. American driving habits haven't been curtailed and the malls are packed with Christmas shoppers. One would never believe that America is on the brink of war. "Life goes on" — with many attitudes rarely reflecting that 450,000 dedicated Americans have been sent to the most hostile of environments to risk life and limb for all the wrong reasons. This is an Arab family problem with indications that the solutions will ultimately come from the Arab world, and rightly so.

I recently spoke with the mother of a young Marine who is being deployed shortly. Commenting her son is troubled with the apathy of many Americans. Please don't disappoint our dedicated Americans,

support them and exercise your American right by voicing your opposition to the conflict.

Christians are awaiting the coming of our Prince of Peace. This is the season of reflection and expressing thanks. Let us remember our military who throughout our history have risked life and limb for all Americans. Especially remember our young men and women in Saudi Arabia who will not be able to experience the joys of this season with their families.

Please take the time to care and urge President Bush and our legislators to maintain a "NO WAR" policy. Write and telephone President Bush (202-456-111) and legislators that war is unacceptable and that dialogue and flexibility is the key to solving this unbelievable situation the "Dynamic Trio" — President Bush, Baker and Cheney — has created for the United States.

Our leaders must see anew the miracle and sacredness of life and should have a greater awareness of their responsibility toward this gift.

Susan Stehling
Upstate New York Coordinator
Military Families Support Network
Raccoon Run
Victor

Army nurse expresses her feelings

To the editors:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit *only* do we exist. Our thoughts are unified when they come from God and lead us back to God.

Our choice in Life is to follow God or Evil. Evil *always* has consequences. God does *not* want us to have unnecessary pain or die before our time.

Our responsibility in life is to do God's work. One choice we have is which role we choose. All roles are important and *can* contribute to God's work *only* if our thoughts are unified with God.

Even when our worst fears come true, God is always with us. We *must* remember that God loves us and wants to ease our pain.

God loves us unconditionally and He always answers our prayers.

Throughout this crisis, the only things that are helping me are:

- 1) That God is always with me.
- 2) That God is in me.
- 3) That God is in people around me.
- 4) That people around me are supporting me, especially those at my parish — St. Mary's Church of Scottsville.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my feelings about waiting.

Laura Sue McCormick
Cedar Street
Scottsville

EDITORS' NOTE: The author is a nurse in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Non-violent solutions should be exhausted

To the editors:

We, the undersigned members of the Pastoral Assistant Association of the Diocese of Rochester, wish to join our brothers and sisters in this diocese and beyond in expressing our grave concern for the situation which exists currently in the Persian Gulf. We are uniting on condemning Iraqi aggression in Kuwait and in supporting the use of all possible non-violent means of achieving a peaceful settlement. We strongly encourage public discussion, especially by our elected leaders, of the criteria of the "Just War" theory which is part of our tradition. We agree with Bishop Clark's recent statement that these conditions have not been met. In fact, we question, in view of the sophistication of

modern warfare, whether it is even possible to meet these conditions, in particular, that of proportionality.

We wish to express our support, concern and solidarity with those who choose conscientious objection, which is equally a part of our tradition, and with those men and women who are currently serving in the Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf, as well as all families who lives are touched by this crisis.

Sister Mary Wintish, RSM, chairperson
EDITORS' NOTE: In addition to Sister Wintish, this letter was signed by 24 members of the pastoral assistants' association.

'King Oil' to blame

To the editors:

As long as the United States is the main instigator in a — possible — war against Iraq, I would say it is immoral. As an ally through the U.N., I would judge differently, as that is the U.N.'s purpose. But sanctions should be used first — as is — for a long time.

Russia and the United States were usually on different sides in previous conflicts, so the U.N. was ineffective. It is not *naked aggression*, a possible *atom bomb*, or their inhumanity, that has caused this trouble. The plain and simple reason is *King Oil*.

Thomas H. Dady
Brett Road Rochester



Bishops compromise truth already set forth by church

To the editors:

The subtle message contained in Laurie Hansen's article "Bishop (Clark) urges church to face tough questions" (*Catholic Courier*, Dec. 6, 1990) embodies the tone that the "gulf" between Church teachings and popular practice of controversial issues mentioned, can be narrowed and/or eliminated if the former would only accept the norms of the latter.

It seems to me that all these tough questions — abortion, birth control, priestly celibacy, women's ordination — have been addressed, in detail, by the Church in Vatican II council — specifically (in) *Gaudium et Spes* — and postconciliar documents, *Sacerdotalis Caelibatus* and *Inter Insigniores*.

Lauding Archbishop Weakland or the subject of abortion was particularly unpalatable considering his damaging criticism of the pro-life movement. How is it possible to reasonably dialogue with "voices of alienation" on a topic that the

council characterized as an "abominable crime" ("The Church in the Modern World," Article 51) without compromising one's principles. Bishops should be above politicians.

Bishop Clark is also quoted as to "a great loss in members" due to Catholics reaction to the Church's position on women's ordination. Might I suggest that these losses may also be attributed to the confusion and lack of guidance engendered by bishops and theologians dissenting with the Chair of Peter? St. Paul's second letter to Timothy appears to be pertinent to these times:

"The time will come when people will not endure sound doctrine; but having itching ears, will heap up to themselves teachers to suit their own likings and they will turn away from listening to the truth" (Timothy II, 4:3-4). Amen!

A.J. Annunziata
Holiday Drive
Horseheads

Catholic Courier fails to give readers pope's weekly messages explaining Catholic beliefs

To the editors:

Some years ago an old priest, now deceased, published an article in a Catholic periodical entitled "I Wonder Why?" In this article he asked the question why the New American Bible seemed to have such a prejudice against the word Soul. In the new edition of this Bible all references to not only Soul, but to Grace and other words and phrases that have long been part of the old Bible have been eliminated. He rightfully asks, "I Wonder Why?"

Re-reading this old message of his, makes me — wonder why — our Diocesan newspaper never makes any reference to our Holy Father's weekly message which is so informative about our Catholic beliefs and obligations.

I believe that his weekly message would be enjoyed by your readers and perhaps be the article they would look for first — after Father Cuddy — of course.

Eugene J. Bowe
Lowman, NY

The Blessed Sacrament deserves 'seat of honor' on main altars of church

To the editors:

I am very unhappy to see Our Blessed Sacrament being housed on a side Altar in some of our new churches and as of late in those being renovated.

In going to a banquet, the guest of honor is always given a seat, center front, of prominence. It behooves me that the greatest guest of honor at the greatest feast, the celebration of the Holy Mass, is not given this honor and respect.

To what guiding force do we credit this shameful act of disrespectful behavior and lack of manners?

I can only relate this to a step backward in our most beautiful Catholic Faith wherein He — Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ — gives us His true Body and Blood, not a symbol, and He is not given the honor due Him.

I don't feel Our Blessed Mother and Her divine Son are happy being placed so far apart from one another, either.

Yolanda J. DeRosa
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Auburn

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