

AP/Wide World Photos
Air Force Sgt. Austin Stevens of Crestview, Fla., goes about his duties as crew chief for this A-10 anti-tank plane stationed at a Saudi airfield, Nov. 2. The pilots of the A-10's affectionately call their aircraft Warthogs.

Reminds peace protesters to support those who serve

To the editors:

I am 40-year-old, and a student at SUNY Brockport. I recently watched a demonstration on campus against the operation in the Middle East. I stood there remembering back to the early seventies, and the demonstrations I participated in. I felt deeply saddened that we have come again to those same days of protest and confusion.

As I walked away I suddenly felt a sense of panic and guilt for my actions 19 years ago. In a conversation with a professor, we commented on the many similarities of the protesters to those of Vietnam protests. I marched and chanted similar slogans as these demonstrators, but hopefully there will be one difference in the outcome. That is the realization of who is to blame for the current Gulf crisis. We blamed the troops in Vietnam as well as the administration. However, we could not get to the administration, so we assaulted and rejected the troops when they returned home. We failed to realize they had no choice but to go to Vietnam when they did.

The majority of our troops today are in the same situation. I beg those dedicated to protesting the current crisis to keep in mind who is to blame for our situation. Do not indulge in the same hatred we did toward our troops. If you do, you will feel the pain and guilt I have felt for many years. Just as with our Vietnam veterans, the troops in the Gulf are to be praised for their sacrifice and dedication to the people of the United States. My hope is that someday I will find

peace with my guilt and anger, that our current troops are treated as heroes when they return, and most of all that our administration will bring them home safely.

Kathy Caprio
 Abbott Street
 Rochester

Theory obscures issue

To the editors:

According to Bishop Clark, an "unjust" war is one in which non-combatants die. Based on that, can anyone give us an example of a "just" war?

Certainly not World War II. But then we didn't try sanctions or petitions with Hitler. If he had only released everyone from the death camps to show his "willingness to talk peace."

Civilians were killed during the American Revolution, so we probably shouldn't have fought that. Maybe we should have sent a delegation of bishops to King George V instead.

The Kuwaiti have seen their land invaded and violated. Their feelings have been stated time and time again. They know what war can bring.

For us, the question is not whether or not this war is "just," but if it is in our best national interests. The Just War Theory is a piece of sophistry that only clouds the issue.

Roger M. Ribert
 Manorshire Drive
 Fairport

Adoptive family's race matters less than giving child permanent home

To the editors:

Having recently become an adoptive parent in a cross racial adoption, I read your Nov. 22 cover story by Barbara Ann Homick with great interest (*Catholic Courier*: "Adoption of minority children sparks debate"). I was surprised and disturbed at the strong statements of opposition to cross-racial adoption. I am aware of the need for cultural identity that may arise in a child, but based on my experience and the statistics that I have seen on children awaiting to be adopted, it is far more advantageous for a child to be in a stable, permanent, nurturing, and loving family — no matter what the color differences — than to have no family at all. Parents, who are informed and concerned with the well-rounded development of their child, can deal with the cultural questions and problems that arise. I feel that giving a child a sense of belonging and worthiness, and thus building the foundation for that child's self esteem, is a more important parental responsibility than maintaining a group identity. With this gift of love a child can more successfully deal with future problems, including those surrounding his/her cultural identity.

The problems of cross-racial adoption cannot be ignored. Potential adoptive parents should educate themselves to the issues involved with and the resources

available to cross-racial adoptive families. This can be accomplished through contact with other adoptive parents, which some adoption agencies organize.

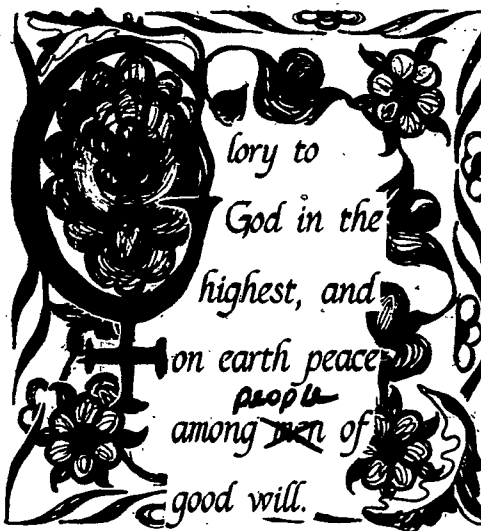
For my wife and me, adopting our daughter has expanded our definition of "family." I'd like to think that this definition is closer to what Christ had in mind when He instituted His Church and encouraged us to build His Kingdom.

William F. Coon
 Mekeel Road
 Trumansburg

Feminist theology rooted in earliest church writings

To the editors:

We appreciate the prominent attention given to feminist theology in your October 25 front page article. Unfortunately, the headline "Feminist theology reflects cultural forces" can be misconstrued to suggest that feminist theology is only a fad, a product of pressures exerted upon the church by secular feminism, Third World liberation movement and the civil rights movement. While theology is developed and articulated by communities and individuals living in particular cultures, the roots of feminist theology can be traced to the earliest writings of the church. In Galatians 3:28, Paul wrote: "There is neither



Jew nor Greek; there is neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Within that Scripture passage we find the recognition that participation in divisive or coercive structure is contrary to the reality of our incorporation into Christ

Contemporary church teaching calls all the baptized to be attentive to the voices of those who continue to suffer because of unjust social structures. Working to counteract such structures and bring about

a just society is integral to the life of every Catholic Christian. Feminist theology calls attention to the plight of women whose lives are totally controlled by such structures. Even within our own country, the situation of many women is alarming. According to the 1986-87 U.S. Census reports, 80 percent of working women are in jobs with no pension plan. The poverty rate among elderly women is 60 percent higher than that of elderly men. In the very same job, a woman will earn 61 cents while a man will earn one dollar.

Feminist theology is concerned about such inequity. Feminist theology is concerned with power, how its misuse dehumanizes both women and men and disregards the Gospel imperative of justice. Feminist theology is concerned with the ways in which power can be used to serve rather than to dominate, to make whole rather than to fragment. Feminist theology invites us to consider the ways in which power can be used to shape the world of the future so that Paul's vision of Galatians 3:28 can become a reality.

Sister Marie Susanne Hoffman, SSJ
 EDITORS' NOTE: This letter was written on behalf of the diocesan Commission on Women in the Church and Society.

Parish's educational programs are healthy; no operation needed for this particular 'child'

To the editors:

One can only hope, upon reading about the appointment of Peter Spinelli to chair the diocese's Christian Formation and Education Council (*Catholic Courier*, Dec. 6: "Education council appoints chairman") that the implementation of the Well-Integrated Catechetical Plan will be handled in a much more prudent manner than was the reorganization of the Catholic Schools. At the present time, St. John of Rochester has an outstanding Religious Ed. program for the young; monthly workshops for all adults; three daily Masses with the school classes from 4th through 8th attending once a week; dai-

ly Rosary; 1st Saturday Scriptural Rosary; 2 active Bible-study groups; special seasonal liturgies; and most important, Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Mr. Spinelli likened the Catholic School situation to a parent's treatment of a "sick" child. If one of 5 or 6 kids is sick "you take care of the sick one." What he forgot to add was — if the sick one needs surgery, all of the children should not be operated on. Educationally and spiritually, St. John of Rochester is very healthy!

Mary Lou Reifsnnyder
 Pittsford-Palmyra Road
 Fairport

It's difficult to understand without listening

To the editors:

Regarding school reorganization one cannot be surprised at the Bishop's ignorance of what the parents really fear (*Catholic Courier*: Dec. 13: "St. Pius school supporters sound off on reorganization").

His steadfast refusal to meet with parents, be they in groups or individually, could account for his nescience. Even written dialogue is futile as countless unanswered letters — from me and other

parents — attest.

If his latest media utterance is a sincere quest for understanding, while it is a bit belated, I welcome it and would be most willing to exchange ideas.

If, however, it is rhetoric I and any other parent who have truly attempted communication with him are deeply hurt and offended by the innuendo.

Judy Boyle Zicari
 Laurelton Road
 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 • Rebecca S. Roth, Photo Intern

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