

Parent commends quality of Catholic schools

To the editors:

Last month, our daughter was part of Guardian Angel's Christmas Concert. Like many parents there, we were very proud of our 8-year-old's enthusiasm. As the verses of "Silent Night" were sung, I found myself thinking back to when I was her age and I was in a similar Christmas skit at my Catholic school. Through this "walk down memory lane," I was amused when I remembered my solemn vow at that age never to send my children to Catholic school! For my kids' sake I'm glad I rethought that earlier promise to myself.

Both of our children attended Preschool for two years at Guardian Angels School and we liked what we saw. While our children were in their classrooms, I'd sneak a peak around the school! Students in the hall were well behaved and polite, and there seemed to be a warm and caring atmosphere throughout the building. Without much hesitation, we enrolled our son in their kindergarten and the next year our daughter.

Our son is now in the 4th grade at Good Shepherd and our daughter in 3rd grade at Guardian Angels. (In case you are confus-

ed as to why they are in different buildings, let me explain: Our children attend the Rush-Henrietta Catholic School System whereby children in grades K-3 attend classes in Guardian Angels building and then the whole class transfers to Good Shepherd for grades 4-8.) They receive free bus transportation to both schools. (In our case, they are picked up and dropped off in front of our house.)

Catholic education for our children has been wonderful! There are 2 sections of each grade which allows for small class size and a lot of individual attention. Each of our children have their own unique gifts which their teachers have helped them to explore. These teachers are certified by New York State and are experienced in modern methods of teaching and cultivating our children's development.

The teachers at both schools adhere to

NYS and Diocesan curriculum guidelines. Catholic values and attitudes are infused throughout their education. Add to that, the computer literacy programs, music lessons, field trips, art lessons, Spanish class, remedial programs, and on site libraries, and I think you can agree that our children's tuition of \$2.75 a day per child is quite a bargain! And, by taking advantage of our schools' used uniform sale, we can outfit each child for about \$20 a year! Also, each school offers a hot lunch program for a nominal charge.

Open Houses are being offered at many area Catholic schools this month. I urge you to contact a Catholic school in your area and take a tour. Let them give you a new look at today's Catholic schools!

Karen Reimringer
Henrietta

Courier undermines church through promotion of heresy

To the editors:

I have been receiving your paper for the past few years. I feel I must finally speak out against the way your paper continually puts down the True Roman Catholic Church and the Holy Father. I find it ironic that you have changed your name back from the *Courier-Journal* to the *Catholic Courier*. The only pieces of authentic Roman Catholicism I have ever read in your paper were written by Father Shamon and Father Cuddy. This goes further than being a question of a conservative or a liberal — your paper has done nothing but promote, indeed, even push the readers away from the Roman Catholic Church and toward the "New" American Catholic Church — the one where you pick and choose what to believe and not to believe. The church where whatever is popular is O.K. and the Holy Father is just a man, not the teaching authority of the Church.

Your paper has continually run stories putting down everything from the Holy Father to the Mother of Christ herself. You blatantly run articles from such enemies of the Roman Catholic Church as Father

McBrien — and it is with much difficulty I use the word "Father." You openly condone Curran!

Your recent suggestion to keep an open mind about abortion and women's roles in the Church are just too much! While you may call your paper Catholic, I call it heresy!

People such as McBrien and yourselves have been trying to undermine the Roman Catholic Church for almost 2000 years. None have been successful but you may have heard of some of them — Martin Luther, Calvin, etc. At least they had the courage to break away from the Roman Catholic Church.

A priest I truly admire has a saying we should all take to heart: "If you're not following the Pope, then you're going the wrong way!" My prayer is that someday the *Catholic Courier* will not be a paper that Roman Catholic parents will have to screen before they allow their children to read it for fear it won't be the truth!

Dennis J. Marino
Lower Lake Road
Seneca Falls

One need only turn to Bible to find proper spiritual food

To the editors:

In reference to the letter in your editorial from Mr. Eugene J. Bowe. In his statement in reference to prejudice against the words "soul" and "grace" which he claims do not appear in the New American Standard Bible, he is in error. The word "soul" appears in numerous places such as Ps. 16:10, 22:29, 23:3, 107:9; Prov. 11:30, 19:16; Ezek. 18:4; Matt. 10:28, 16:26; Mark 8:37, 8:36. The word "grace" ap-

pears in John 1:17; Rom. 5:20, 6:14, 11:6; Eph. 2:8 and 6:24. There are other passages where the word itself does not appear but is implied.

Mr. Bowe's comments referring to why the *Catholic Courier* does not publish more of our Pope's concerns and in addressing certain issues is well taken. But the "word" is always available to us via the Bible. One need only refer to it frequently as you would eat food that nourishes the body. It is our daily bread for nourishing our spiritual being. One need only open his or her heart and mind and receive nourishment through this readily available gift. It enhances your spiritual walk daily. And it won't be necessary to look to see if the *Catholic Courier* has a message from the Pope. "When one prays, the Lord listens, when you read the Bible the Lord is talking to you." Do not let some minor discrepancy serve as a detour or reason for not reading the Bible. Do not become distracted and ask "I wonder why?" when with an open mind and heart you will be saying "Thank you Lord, now I know."

Peter G. Izzo
Rochester

Writer thanks schools for help with 'present'

To the editors:

During the month of December, the Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents collected from the diocese elementary and Jr. High Schools t-shirts, sweat-shirts, hats, tote bags, mugs, banners and personal Christmas cards. The response from the schools was excellent.

All of these wonderful gifts were packed in two decorated bags and four students and their parents from St. Thomas the Apostle School presented the gifts with Christmas wishes to a very surprised Bishop Matthew Clark at his home on Sunday, Dec. 16, 1990. Christine Perlo (grade 5), Jessica Perlo (grade 2), Kate Adams (grade 3) and Amanda Zaleski (grade 5) enjoyed a special visit with their Bishop and an abundance of hugs from him.

The Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents thanks all of the schools who participated in this project and we especially thank Bishop Matthew Clark for his kindness and hospitality.

Linda M. Zaleski
President
Rochester Federation of
Catholic School Parents

Money for Medicaid abortions can help fill social service budget gaps

To the editors:

Recent news reports on Governor Mario M. Cuomo's plan to cut \$1 billion from the current state budget point up one of the recurring paradoxes of a governmental fiscal crisis. Once again, "deficit reduction plan" has become synonymous with lessened investment in health care and social services for the poor and other less fortunate citizens.

If the Governor and our legislators must reduce Medicaid benefits, we strongly urge them to set reasonable priorities within the areas they target. The current proposal will take away basic medical services from New Yorkers who are already living well below the federally-established poverty level. It will also have a major impact upon services provided by hospitals, nursing homes and mental retardation/developmental disability programs.

What has not been reported is that this fiscal crunch presents a clear opportunity to better allocate scarce Medicaid dollars, and thereby preserve vital services. We think many New York taxpayers would be surprised to learn that \$17.5 million was spent on some 43,500 Medicaid abortions in New York State last year, according to the State Department of Social Services. That is a price tag of \$402 per abortion, with the majority of abortions performed for non-medical purposes.

There's no better time than right now to cease the funding of elective abortions for non-medical reasons and re-allocate millions of dollars to medically necessary

services for the poor, elderly, disabled and mentally retarded. We find it doubly cruel to continue using limited state dollars to destroy unborn children while simultaneously eliminating crucial services and basic necessities for those unable to financially help themselves.

We are hopeful that the Governor and the state's elected officials will be guided in their considerations by justice and motivated by their courage and commitment to the welfare of the people of New York.

Kathleen M. Gallagher
Associate Director
New York State Catholic Conference
Albany

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Move of tabernacle proves to be unsound

To the editors:

In your edition of 20th December 1990 you published a letter from Yolanda De Rosa, who expressed her dismay at the current trend to push Our Lord from His rightful position as centre of worship in our churches.

We were assured that moving the Blessed Tabernacle to a side altar would encourage more reverence and private devotion. If any of the originators of this movement were to take a long, hard look at what has really happened, they might think twice about continuing this ill conjured practice.

People come into church without so much as a glance toward the tabernacle, their backs turned to Our Lord as they seek a place to sit. If they genuflect it is not towards His presence but to an empty chair in the centre of the altar. Does this indicate increased reverence and respect?

The bishops lament the falling away of Catholics everywhere, but fail to see themselves as partially responsible. I grew up in a Protestant country where tradition was, and still is, respected. My father, an avid golfer, used to say that one could worship God as well on the golf course. If he were here today he would know that what he said was true.

Joyce P. Szwagiel Auburn