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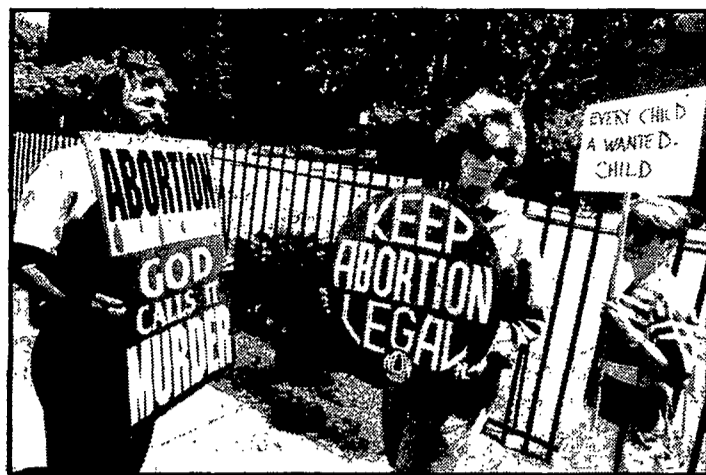
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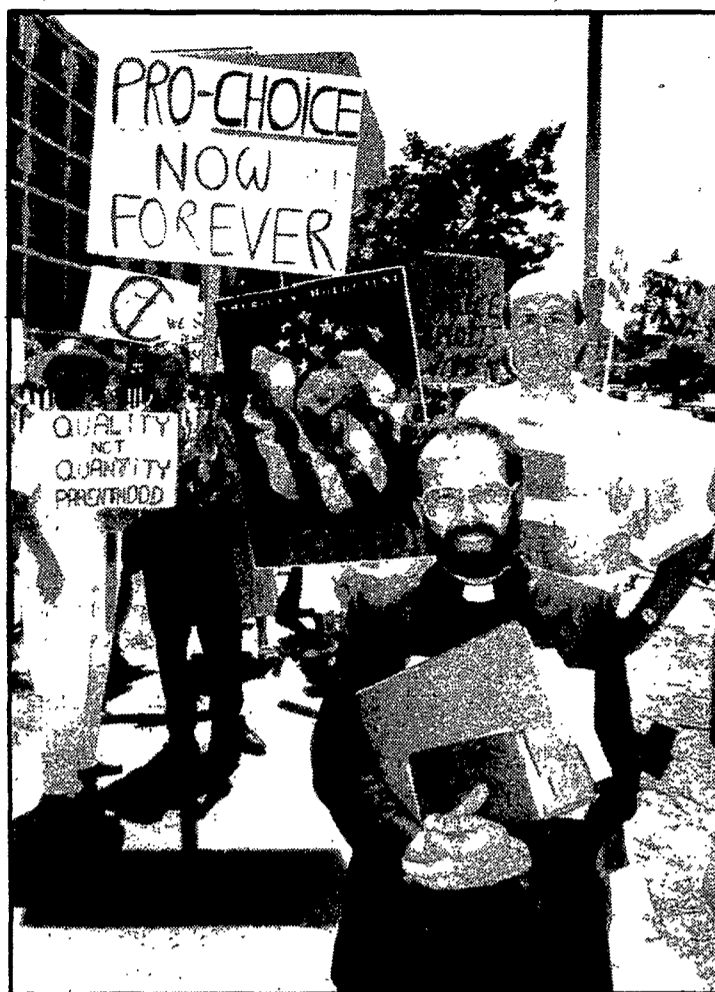
The *Catholic Courier* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues affecting church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.



Philip Archer



**Activists boycott hospital**

Approximately 45 pro-life and pro-choice activists turned-out June 20 to participate in — and demonstrate against — a boycott of Genesee Hospital. Organizers asked employees and patients to boycott the hospital for one day. Above, Bob Dorscheid (left) and Alayne Evers (center) were among the marchers who participated in the afternoon event. At right, Father Anthony Mugavero listens to one of several pro-life speeches presented at the protest.

**Planned Parenthood is deceptive**

To the editors:

I find it interesting that Planned Parenthood is upset with the recent Supreme Court ruling *Rust vs. Sullivan* that prevents Title X clinics from talking to women about the option of abortion. Planned Parenthood objects to withholding information that they say women are entitled to know.

I'm curious why Planned Parenthood has all of a sudden become concerned about information on abortion being withheld. Planned Parenthood has never talked to women about the full information about abortion. They have always withheld full disclosure to women about the complete factual reality of abortion, namely about the unborn child. They have never let women see through ultrasound and fiber optics what really happens to the unborn in abortion. They never inform women about the reality of fetal medicine that is able to do surgery to save the same life that abortion will take. In fact, in 1989 there were over 3,000 articles in the areas of fetal research, twice as many as the closest competitor — cancer research.

Because it withholds information about the unborn child within the woman, Planned Parenthood is one of the most deceptive organizations I know. Now it has the audacity to complain about withholding information from women. I would suggest Planned Parenthood do an experiment like one done by an abortion clinic in Washington, D.C. The clinic in Washington did a study with women coming in for abortions. Before the women went through with the actual abortion, they were shown pictures of their unborn child through ultrasound. After seeing their offspring through the marvelous technology of ultrasound, not one woman went through with the abortion she had planned on.

If Planned Parenthood wants all information about abortion to be given to women, then why don't they also show them brain waves, heart beat, and so many other human characteristics that the science of fetology has allowed us to see? If Planned Parenthood wants to be consistent and not hypocritical, then I would suggest allowing women to see, hear and interact with that

life before the abortion. Let the women see on ultrasound, hear through the Doppler effect, and study through the marvelous technology of fiber optics the incredible world of their own child. Then let them have the information about what will happen to that life within them when a suction machine will tear that developing life to shreds.

In my experience of hearing a number of women talk about the devastating experience of abortion for them, they resented the fact that the information about the life within them was either trivialized or never presented fully to them so they could make a truly informed decision.

Yes, let's allow women to be fully informed to all aspects of what abortion really is — including seeing and hearing all about the unborn child within them — before they make a decision they can never take back and regret the rest of their lives.

**Father Jim Hewes**  
East South Street  
Geneseo

**Church must oppose condoms in schools**

To the editors:

The silence emanating from our Diocesan leaders as well as from other local Churches over the current proposal for distributing condoms in schools is deafening. Can it be that our church leadership has succumbed to the rationale of the secular culture that says "since they are going to do it anyway, we might as well supply them with the proper means for doing it?" Using this kind of convoluted logic, we can also justify doing things like: giving out clean syringes because we know kids are doing drugs; abolishing the drinking age requirement since kids are going to drink;

passing out answers to exams because we expect them to cheat; and on and on.

Surely the statistics on teen pregnancies and AIDS are alarming and disheartening, but can we as Christians remain silent as our educators consider instituting a policy that would facilitate and implicitly condone teen sexual activity? Are we to keep our mouths shut as schools implement programs for showing fourth and fifth graders how to use condoms and spermicides? Are we simply "turning the other cheek" as a sexually promiscuous society slaps us in the face with its constant barrage of messages glorifying and promoting sex? Or by

our silence are we saying that the Church is liberalizing its attitude toward sexual morality in order to come more in line with society's rapidly eroding standards? I pray the answer to all of these is a resounding "no!" and I urge our Bishop to lead us in raising his voice in opposition to the proposed policy and, hopefully, others will follow.

The Church must regain the prominent role it once had in establishing and maintaining the norms for moral conduct. A lesson from G.K. Chesterton would serve us well here. To paraphrase him, "what we need is not a Church that changes with the world, but a Church that changes the world."

**Ronald J. Tocci**  
West Church Street Fairport

**EDITORS' NOTE:** This letter was mailed prior to the June 18 release of a diocesan statement on the proposal for condom distribution in the Rochester City School District. News of the statement was contained in "Diocese responds to proposed condom plan" in the June 20 *Catholic Courier*.

**Catholic War Veterans laud article**

To the editors:

On behalf of Catholic War Veterans Post 1156, I want to thank you for the very well written and timely article, "Veterans kept faith under fire" in the June 6, 1991 *Courier*.

It was good to see actual experiences of

veterans from the different Wars as proof that men can serve their country in time of war and still keep their faith in God and His Blessed Mother.

**George Schum, Commander**  
Catholic War Veterans Post 1156  
Bay Road Webster