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Letters Policy

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.

Writer appreciates paper's balance

To the editors:

It has been my privilege to have served the people of Auburn for 22 years as an elected representative both on the city council and Auburn Board of Education.

During this period my relationship with reporters of the news media has been excellent! Mutual respect for each other!

I believe the *Catholic Courier* has a well balanced content of columns ... for everyone's taste. Some like some columnists. Some like others. I enjoy reading them all.

Auburnians Fathers Cuddy and Shamon do an "AA" job! The writing staff of the *Courier* do not have to take their hats off to

any columnists be they religious or from the secular newspapers! They, in my opinion are excellent, namely, Lee Strong, Cindy Bassett, Barbara Ann Homick, another Auburnian, Rob Cullivan along with the photographers, who do a fine job in their area ... Babette Augustin, and Philip Archer.

I have talked with the Managing Editor, Richard Kiley, a number of times on the phone. I must say his conversations with me have been very friendly and cordial.

To the "entire" staff, you are to be commended for a job well done. The national writers along with Bishop Clark's

weekly message, at least for me, make good weekly reading, even though at times I may disagree with their respective message.

In closing I would like to share a beautiful message given me after I lost the Mayoral election in Auburn. "Frank, you can't win them all. After all, even Jesus Christ did not win everyone He preached to during His earthly ministry. Frank, He still does not win them all!" This man was a southern Baptist!

Francis Mastropietro
Clark Street
Auburn

Moms fail to see irony when they defend abortion

To the editors:

Having participated in several Pro-Life anti-abortion demonstrations, it has always amazed me, when I see among those counter-demonstrating against us, some Pro-Choice mothers accompanied by their small children. I wonder about those children — when they reach the age of reason, will they, in knowing their mother was in favor of abortion — will they consider themselves fortunate their mother did not have them killed off before their birthdate?

Will they, even with such a parent, be enjoying their life in spite of the horrible question hanging over their lives? I just can't seem to remove these questions from my mind, particularly when I read opinions favoring abortion from mothers, fathers, or grandparents of children.

Sure makes sense, one of the posters I saw at the recent demonstration against Planned Parenthood: "Kill Some, Keep Some."

Frank L. Cutler
Bridport, Vt.



File photo
Police carry away a pro-choice activist, one of several who turned out to counter a pro-life demonstration in Queens, N.Y. on May 3, 1988.

Diocese refuses to decry tactics used in protests

To the editors:

As a prochoice member of the group that met with representatives of the Diocese of Rochester on the issue of Civil Disobedience, I am amazed that the Diocese is unable to acknowledge that blocking women from health care is a violent act. Blocking any individual from obtaining health care is violent.

Statistics have shown blocking a women from procuring an abortion only delays the procedure, increasing health risks and the possibility of complications.

Last November 29 Bishop Clark urged the U.S. Bishop's committee on women to explore fully and courageously questions facing Catholics today including those related to birth control, abortion and ordination of women to the priesthood.

I believe it is time for the REAL dialogue to begin!

Elaine D. Ashworth
Rosewood Drive
Pittsford

Kneeling at consecration should be norm

To the editors:

One notices that in various parishes people are being told to stand during the consecration of the Mass, its most solemn moment. This is assuredly a peculiar practice in view of the rubrics binding upon both priests and people.

The posture of the faithful during the Eucharistic Prayer is clearly set forth in the *General Instruction on the Roman Missal*, #21. There we read that we "should kneel at the Consecration unless prevented by lack of space, large numbers or other reasonable cause."

Liturgists commenting upon the above have noted that kneeling is the posture of the body proper to expressions of penance for both liturgical and personal needs. Thus, kneeling during the consecration of the Mass is the normal response of the humble Christian should. In this as in other points of liturgical usage, any legitimate exceptions should not become the rule.

In addition, the National Conference of Bishops voted that #21 of the *General Instruction on the Roman Liturgy* be adapted so that the people kneel beginning after the singing of the *Sanctus* (the "Holy, Holy,

Holy") until the *Amen* of the Eucharistic Prayer, that is, before the Lord's Prayer. No Bishop or priest is authorized to change this directive of the NCCB.

In his superb Catholic Catechism the distinguished Jesuit theologian, Fr. John Hardon tells us that Genuflecting, Kneeling, Folding one's hands are action-sacramentals that testify to the Faith that inspires them and carry with them the promise of God's spiritual and temporal help to those obedient to the Church's authority.

If we are going to retain the proper reverence for the coming of Christ on our Altars, surely we should all follow the norms set by the *General Instruction on the Roman Liturgy* and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Dorothy Macaluso
Chairman, St. Pius X Chapter
Catholics United for the Faith

Article contained inaccurate vote

To the editors:

The Sisters of St. Joseph would like to thank *Catholic Courier* reporter Rob Cullivan for his enthusiastic and timely coverage of our Chapter Elections. The July 4, 1991 article (p. 3) stated that the election of our leadership was "unanimous." In the spirit of the SSJ election process, which some consider a counter-cultural activity, it would have been correct to simply state that the delegates elected their leaders on

June 27, 1991. The counter-cultural aspect of elections within a congregation of women religious is that the elections were grounded in prayer, community-wide reflection, and a spirit of obedience.

Maryellen Potts
Public Relations Director
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
EDITORS' NOTE: The sisters' public relations office provided the *Courier* with the information regarding the elections.

Conservative, liberal labels don't tell it all

To the editors:

I certainly enjoyed Fr. McBrien's article on Pope John Paul II about his social teachings.

It seems to agree with liberals except for abortion. And I question whether all Liberal Democrats are Pro-Choice. Likewise, I don't believe all Conservative Republicans are Pro-Life.

So unless two-gun George Bush becomes more liberal and the Democrats put up a Pro-Life candidate, I'm going to need the help of St. Jude in '92, God willing.

In the past I've voted for 8 Democrats & 5 Republicans.

Thomas H. Dady
Brett Road
Rochester

Dress up for church

To the editors:

Our Pastor retired a few weeks ago and a beautiful farewell party was given him at a party house in Webster.

All the guests appeared in splendor. Beautiful gowns and dresses on all the ladies. All the gentlemen wore dress shirts and ties and jackets. Every shoe was polished. It was beautiful to see.

Isn't it strange that for about one hour on a Sunday the same honor and respect cannot be tendered to our Lord and Saviour at Mass?

Janet K. V-Arnold
East Church Street
Fairport