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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 is-

Tridentine Mass enriches worship

*()*pinion

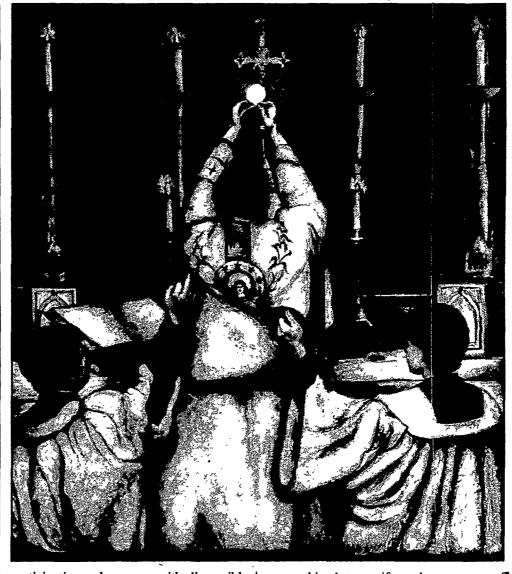
To the editors:

This letter is in regard to an August 22 article on the Tridentine Mass (Catholic Courier: "Calls abide for Tridentine's return"). Although I attended Catholic elementary school, high school and college, being a post-conciliar child I was not exposed to the Tridentine Mass nor to much of the Catholic tradition that was abandoned after Vatican II. It can be said that my entire generation is poorer for this total denial of access to our Catholic heritage. Let me say that I firmly believe in the validity of Vatican II and the Novus Ordo (New Order) Mass, but I must also say that many Catholics especially of my generation have an inadequate understanding of what the Mass actually is.

The singular view of the Eucharist alone as a "brotherly meal" among a community of friends, breaking bread in remembrance of the Lord's Last Supper is insufficient because it neglects to view the Mass as the common sacrifice of the Church. This sacrifice is the perpetuation of the Sacrificial offering of Christ on Calvary in which Our Lord prays for us and communicates himself to us.

Many people say that in order to make the Mass meaningful it must be an expression of the community. This shows a pervasive error in the understanding of what is distinctive to the liturgy. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is not what "we do" but rather is something that "takes place" here, that not all of us together as church or community can "make." The Tridentine Mass makes people aware of a transcendent reality, this transcendent reality is grossly neglected by a vast majority of Catholics today who allow themselves to be assimilated into the moral relativism and materialistic consumerism of the present godless secular society.

The idea of participation in the Mass by the people is important and people must participate. The narrow perspective that



participation only occurs with discernible external activity, such as speaking, singing, preaching, reading, shaking hands disregards the most important participation, that which occurs in silence. During the Tridentine Mass the priest does not turn his back to the people, he instead raises the dignity of the people by facing the same

a worship that manifests the presence of the Eternal.

As the young father of a growing family, I wish to be a member of a church community that practices a legitimate form of liturgical pluralism that has been stressed by.Vatican II and it's interpreters.

> Joseph G. Morgan Park Avenue Rochester

> > **Gene Charles**

Geneva Turnpike

Divine covenant decrees male priesthood

direction as they, and turns towards that

which is Wholly Other. What we need is

this, an encounter with the sacred through

To the editors: Mr. McGee of Houston (letter, *Catholic*

Courier, Aug. 15: "Private revelation weak support for case") dismisses Father Shamon's ideas against women's ordination and reduces the "problem" of their exclusion by questioning precisely "where in public revelation contained in the deposit of faith is there a divine decree excluding women?" Forgetting, of course, precisely where in it can they be found ordered? Divine will can be maintained as decisively by silence as by thunderclap.

In using the criteria of revelation, depos-

Hebrew covenant; the everlasting covenant that Jesus renews and passes into the hands of male Apostles now for a wider world. It is McGee who would make Christ's public revelation and deposit to the Apostles into a "private revelation" of erring males.

How yielding and easily chiselled out would be a "divine decree" by itself to hands wielding facile tools such as "biblical criticalism." Fixing more firmly than any single prohibition could do, "He Is" went on to clothe His unique identity by convenantly empowering an exclusively male priesthood to weave Himself across Yes, there is indeed something intrinsic in an exclusively male priesthood: the identity in an Unique One of exclusive attributes revealed in the Testaments, defined by councils; most recently Vatican One. These delineate a Power beyond anything able to be expressed by men and women.

That no power on earth gave us Him is the crux of Hebrew covenant. And for it its highest Priest, Jesus the Anointed, obediently let Himself be silenced. His Apostles testify in His stead that Who He Is shall return, not mincingly, but openly manifesting that Power.

sues 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. it of faith and divine decree to argue against exclusively male priesthood he thereupon abandons the same revelation, deposit of faith and divine decree that is the woof and warp of an everlasting revelation. There can be no pulling that one thread without stripping off His divine garment.

Prayers for priests calendar ends 'Courier' ads due to lack of funds

To the editors:

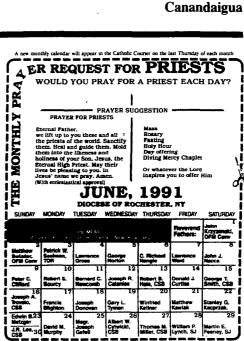
We are sorry to advise your readers (clergy and laity) that after a 5-month display in the *Catholic Courier* we are obliged to discontinue the MPRP (Monthly Prayer Request for Priests) calendar. The donations have not kept pace with the cost of the calendar ad which is \$203.00 each month. We tried to offer prayers through this media as a powerful means of helping our priests, but even with the best of intentions we are not able to meet the financial obligations.

However, we are not giving up, we are retrenching. We will return to our original

format of mailing one bimonthly calendar (2 months) per request beginning with September. If interested write MPRP at the address given below.

We wish to thank all those who supported our efforts prayerfully and financially and hope they and others will continue to do so. The Blessed Mother wants us to pray for priests — and we want to — especially our own.

> Mary M. Reilich The MPRP Committee Green Knolls Drive Rochester



Look for next month's MPRP CALENDAR in the Catholic Courier's June 27th issu

Thursday, September 12, 1991

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