

1150 Buffalo Road  
Rochester, NY 14624  
716/328-4340

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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.

## System offering some religious programs

### To the editors:

Greater Rochester Cablevision should be congratulated as they have started to provide some religious programming during the week. If you are an early morning person you can see the Eternal Word Television Network — a Catholic Network — on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. VISN an ecumenical network is shown on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the same time.

This is a good first step. But I feel that there is a need for this type of programming on a 24-hour basis. We have a lot of time and space in our media that talks about and glorifies the things that are wrong with our society — drugs, divorce, sex, crime, etc. There are currently two MTV cable stations on Prime Time TV, but no religious programs. What we need are programs that provide guidance and direction to our young and all people with problems.

I have been advised by GRC Management that a capital expansion program will be completed by the end of 1992 and capacity for over 70 cable stations will be available. Dedicating two or three channels — less than 5 percent of capacity — to religious programs for the public good should be possible. The Rochester area has a large majority of those who consider themselves Christian. Thirty-five percent are Catholic. If all of us work together we can have a positive effect on things that impact us.

One of the things we can do is to let Greater Rochester Cablevision Management know that we want the Eternal Word



File photo  
Mother Angella's Eternal Word Television Network is now being carried by Greater Rochester Cablevision in the early-morning hours.

Television Network (EWTN) on a full time basis. If you are a Cable subscriber, you can respond to their annual survey which is sent with their October billing. Check off a favorable response to the question on EWTN.

If you don't subscribe you can show your support by writing to Frank Chiano, President, Greater Rochester Cablevision,

71 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620.

With your help we can provide better alternatives to cable viewers. Talk to your friends and neighbors and ask them to respond to the survey or to write a letter.

Paul J. Alfano  
Sawmill Drive  
Penfield

## Compassion is proper response to all pain

### To the editors:

This letter is in response to that of Mr. Joel Friedman, concerning the establishment of an AIDS memorial (*Catholic Courier*, Sept. 5: "AIDS memorial would help foster serenity").

As Catholics, our response to the sick, from whatever cause is to alleviate their suffering; whether it be through providing a glass of water to the thirsty or by providing the best medical care possible.

We as Catholics also acquire spiritual merit by offering our prayers, good works, joys and sufferings for the Church — suf-

fering, in Purgatory, hoping that Almighty God, in His infinite mercy might shorten any punishment incurred from any action contrary to His law.

AIDS is an unfortunate disease that as yet defies a cure. The two major ways of acquiring the disease are from sexual transmission and intravenous drug use. The number of individuals dying from AIDS is still, however, small when compared to the number of those dying from causes such as cancer, heart disease and trauma, all equally as devastating.

Might a memorial to AIDS victims

seem as an affront to those dying from other causes but as yet have no memorial themselves? Might an AIDS memorial also imply the condoning and acceptance of such behavior that resulted in the acquiring the disease?

With the approach of November, all souls month, let us be compassionately conscious of all the sick and let us remember the souls of all the faithful departed, whether they be relative, friend, or the most abandoned.

Michael R. Aiello, M.D.  
Clintwood Court, Rochester

## Encourages round-the-clock prayer to stop abortions

### To the editors:

For the past two or three months, we have been reading many articles about the high number of homicides in Rochester, which is now at 40. I believe this number is erroneous and very low! Maybe it should be over 1,000 if we include the innocent lives lost due to abortions.

My heart goes out to these innocent children, to the mothers who are comfortable with their abortion decision, to the mothers who regret their abortion decision and to mothers contemplating abortion.

I am not trying to be judgmental to women who have had an abortion — they

have rights to what happens to their bodies. What about the rights of the fathers and their innocent, aborted children?

What about the rights of childless couples who would love to adopt a child — any child — the child of a mother considering abortion? I can think of a couple very dear to me who would love to adopt one of these children.

Let's continue to pray night and day for those touched by abortion — let's continue to work and pray for the reversal of *Roe vs. Wade!*

One argument that pro-abortionists use is that life begins at birth, not at concep-

tion. I feel life begins at conception and stays in the mothers womb for nine months to be nurtured and protected, not aborted.

The fact that the baby in the womb moves, responds, has human features that continuously develop and feels pain — as evidenced by "The Silent Scream" — should convince people that life begins at conception.

Clearly this life, this miracle, should be protected by law not aborted due to a law.

Steve DeLucia Jr.  
Webster

## Local Catholics must speak out against plan to distribute condoms

### To the editors:

Beginning early October 1991, (the) New York City Board of Education has approved a "condom distribution policy" throughout its High School system.

Health Resource rooms will be set up where a designated adult and/or adults employed by that school will dispense "condoms" to any student who requests them free of charge.

All this will be done without the knowledge or permission of the students parents! This same policy or the issue of "parental

consent" continues throughout New York State and affects family values since we as parents are not consulted even on the question of abortions being performed on our pre-teen and teenage daughters!

Monroe County Health Commissioner, Andrew Doniger, has already made it clear that he favors the distribution of "condoms" throughout all High Schools in Rochester and surrounding area High Schools.

When are we going to wake up and either write or call all our elected New

York State Senators and Assemblymen stating our opposition to these illogical programs.

Start by talking to the principal of your son or daughters High School and other elected school board officials. Tell them you oppose handing out condoms on school premises and most certainly to your son and/or daughter. It's already in (New York City) and unless we speak out, it will be part of school policy here in Rochester.

Tom Lynch  
Gulf Road, Attica