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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.

Christians must speak against war

To the editors:

A Harvard Medical Team visited Iraq recently to determine the effects of the Persian Gulf War on the health of the Iraqi people. One of the findings is that our bombings of the Iraqi infrastructure resulted in water-purification plants being destroyed. This predictable result will be the loss of 170,000 children, five and under, dying from cholera and dysentery.

In addition the war caused deaths of the 170,000 Iraqi children, the third-world Nation of Iraq had 150,000 troops and 80,000 civilians killed. The U.S.A. had 210 troops killed in the conflict. All of these lives are precious and sacred.

The Iraqis and the U.S.A. have the same Creator, the same parent, the same Savior, Jesus Christ. They are truly brothers and sisters, their children are our children and this goes both ways. The Creator commanded us to Not Kill each other, no exceptions were included.

The Savior of us all, Jesus Christ, commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves, to love each other as He loved us, which included love of our enemies. All this love requires us to respect everyone, everywhere as people of God as we are people of God.

War is anti-Christ because it is anti-humanity. We need to reject war, resist war which is the killing of our brothers, sisters and their children, our children.

We are living in the 21st century of the

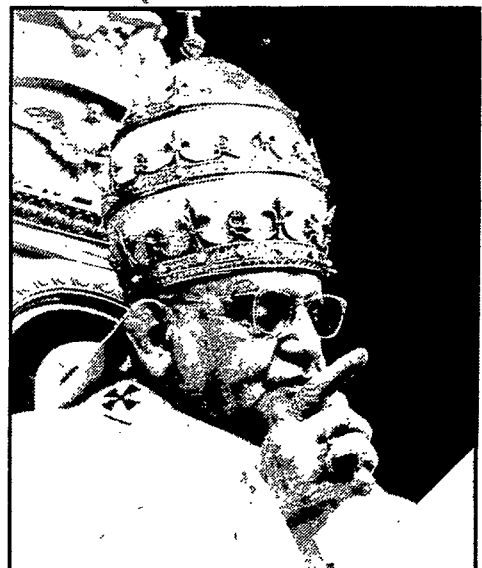


AP/Wide World Photos
A Kurdish infant receives treatment for cholera May 8 at a refugee-camp medical tent along the Turkish-Iraqi border.

Christian Era. We hope and pray it is an age of Christ enlightenment and not anti-life darkness. Our silence gives consent to our elected leadership to conduct wars covertly and overtly. Let us stand up and publicly express our abhorrence of killing people for whatever rationale.

There truly are non-violent, peaceful methods and solutions to conflicts. We need to insist they be used. I believe this is what Jesus expects of us.

Deacon Eugene C. Fuerst
Simpson Road
Rochester



File photo

This 1962 photo shows Pope John XXIII delivering his Easter address to thousands of faithful and tourists gathered at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Wonders why church hasn't canonized Pope John XXIII

To the editors:

Regarding: "Testimony checks Opus Dei cause" (*Catholic Courier*, Sept. 26.).

I am always interested in reading Father McBrien's column. I enjoy his articles because he is open and honest in telling how it is. He doesn't try to hide the truth about the Church. It helps us to see it as it is and realize that the Church makes mistakes like the rest of us. It helps us to grow as Christian adults and to love the Church despite its faults.

I had just finished reading *Journal of a Soul* when I read Father McBrien's article in the *Courier* Sept. 26th about the cause of Pope John XXIII's beatification. I was glad to be informed about it as I was wondering after the reading of that book, why that holy Christian, that beloved pope

was not already canonized? His humility, obedience and love were so obvious to all people!

I encourage everyone to read that book. It is his personal journal, and a great inspiration of simplicity in the life of a saint. I am sure that all Christians who lived a saintly life haven't been canonized. I'm also sure that our beloved John XXIII is happy just to be there with God and Mary that he prayed and loved and also with all the saints known and unknown to us.

May his example of love, humility and please be a constant reminder to all of how to live a Christian life especially for the clergy and ministers of Christ who want to serve God and His people.

Raymond Lachance
Lower Hill Lane, Fairport

'Uniform' affirms sisters' identity, attitude of service

To the editors:

Though I didn't read Father Cuddy's column on women religious and the wearing of a habit (*Catholic Courier*, Sept. 5: "More sisters should make a habit of habits"), I'd like to share some of my thoughts on the subject.

A habit as I perceive it is like a uniform. It is simple and readily identifies you as a "servant." It need not be black and floor length, but simple, modest and that which could easily identify you to a

stranger as one whose focus on God is so strong, as to be able to serve the "other" in his or her need.

Bishop Sheen in one of his tapes on the Little Flower Novena tells of a certain Jewish jeweler in Rochester who called him one day and offered to give him a bag of crosses. Bishop Sheen went to see the jeweler who poured out on the counter many, many of the crosses our nuns wore as part of their "habit." The jeweler told Bishop Sheen that the "person" who

brought them to him said the crosses — and the entire habit I presume — distanced them from the people. Bishop Sheen asked the jeweler what he said. The jeweler replied, "I offered her 30 pieces of Silver!"

Sheen goes on to tell how society despises the cross and other outward signs of religiosity. But, are we to be one with society in this, or are we to be different? Are we to embrace the cross, to wear it as a sign of our love, be brave enough to stand as "different for God" in a world that says conform and be Godless like us???

Call for reform and introspection is quite different than condemnation. Religious life is a high calling, a most beautiful gift. But as with any vocation, it must be nurtured, must be lived fully. Nuns are different — thank you God! — so why not humbly, in the attitude of the servant let the world know?

Benefactor enables program's continuation

To the editors:

We are writing to tell your readers the good news! The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests (MPRP) calendar is returning to the *Catholic Courier*, Thursday, October 31, 1991. A generous benefactor is providing the funds we need for the ad.

We are most grateful to him and to all our donors who were overwhelming with their prayers and financial support once

they knew our plight. Our clergy were not to be outdone. Their many letters — with financial support — encouraged us to continue our efforts. They all recognized the value of and need for our apostolate.

Our humble and grateful thanks to everyone.

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