

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.



Participants in the Oct. 6 Life Chain lined Rochester's East Avenue from the Liberty Pole to the Can of Worms. File photo

Grateful to originator of Life Chain

To the editors:

I want to thank the grandfather who thought up the idea of the Life Chain. And I was proud to see so many senior citizens with those who took part in it Sunday, Oct. 6th.

The Life Chain stretched for miles along the sidewalk on East Avenue from the Liberty Pole to the Can of

Worms!

They stood along East Avenue from 2 to 3 p.m. Each person held a plain neat white sign which said in blue letters "Abortion Kills Children." Three generations took part, usually from entire families.

They prayed silently for an end to abortion wearing their Sunday clothes.

This was our Rochester area's share in the National Life Chain which included 26 Rochester denominations for Respect Life Sunday.

God Bless them! It was impressive! It was the biggest pro-life demonstration in Rochester's history!

Mary Rita Crowe
East Main Street, Rochester

Extend compassion for Jessica to unborn

To the editors:

It was prime time on TV on Friday evening, October 16, 1987, when suddenly and dramatically the three major networks interrupted their programming to focus on Midland, Texas where the rescue team in that community were exerting all their efforts and resources to rescue an 18-month-old girl, Jessica McClure, who had fallen into an abandoned mine shaft and had been trapped there for 58 hours.

The people of the U.S. and indeed throughout the world agonized, prayed, and waited for that little girl to be saved. And through the marvel of television, we were able to witness the successful completion of that rescue at the very moment that it happened.

There have been many other instan-

ces where very noble and heroic efforts were expended to save a life. Such humane concern and brotherly love for others is very laudable and touches our deepest heartstrings.

But in stark contrast, I couldn't help comparing those efforts to the utter lack of solicitude on the part of so many for the execution of the completely innocent unborn — one every 20 seconds; over 4000 every day; over 25 million since the infamous *Roe vs. Wade* decision. Would that a mere modicum of the world-wide compassion for Jessica McClure was extended to these little ones!

It defies all logical explanation and is beyond comprehension. How can so much concern, so much effort, and so much love be exerted to save one life,

and rightly so, and yet where millions of other lives are concerned, there is a sense of helpless apathy on the part of the vast majority.

Yet, if enough people were truly aroused, they could effect an end to this tragedy because in America, the elected politician will respond to the needs and wants of his constituents when they are consistently and persistently made known.

Let not future generations condemn us for our complicity in the extermination of these helpless ones because we stood indifferently aside and shamefully tolerated the continuation of this human holocaust.

Jerry Paladino
Route 14
Rock Stream, N.Y.

Paper shouldn't be tool for one priest to bash another

To the editors:

I have had a concern for some time, over the quality of editorial tone of the *Catholic Courier*. While I think it is good that everyone has an opportunity to express their opinion, it should be done in good taste, since this paper is still a Catholic newspaper and supposedly the voice of the Rochester diocese; I don't think it should be a tabloid, and contain articles that air dirty laundry, attack individuals and generally leave you with a feeling that the church, pope, bishop, priests, and nuns that represent the church are all messed up.

A case in point was the column writ-

ten by Father Paul Cuddy "On the Right Side" in the Oct. 24, 1991 *Courier*. For those that didn't read the article it picked upon statements supposedly made by Father Richard McBrien in an academic seminar, and then proceeded to bash Father McBrien.

Obviously there are significant philosophical differences between these two priests, however in my opinion this newspaper should not serve as the vehicle where one priest bashes another priest, in front of tens of thousands of its readers. At the very least the article should never have degenerated to the point where Father Cuddy in bold type suggests that

Father McBrien is only in the church to undermine it, and further states that "Father McBrien has been whining for years." That in my opinion is pretty low class and shows a lack of values which I thought Christians stood for.

Similar critical articles of a personal nature have appeared in the past on this opinion page. I would hope that in the future this newspaper could do a better job in monitoring what is printed, so that the average reader comes away with more substance, and less low class divisional material.

Bernard Streb
Rosewood Drive
Pittsford

Resents family center's campaign for national health-care system

To the editors:

I would like to know why the Catholic Family Center is getting so involved with the drive for a national health-care system?

I don't see the CFC getting this involved or involved at all in the more serious issues such as abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. Hasn't anyone heard how broke Canada is? They have a national health-care system and it is killing their economy.

The ballot sent out by the CFC states

that many people wouldn't mind paying more taxes for the national health-care system. Well I among many others are not willing to pay more taxes. We all are paying far too much tax now. We all know that a lot of our tax dollars just end up in someone's pocket.

I agree that something has to be done about our present system but a national health-care system is not the answer. We are paying \$56 a week or \$224 a month for our health care which

is a lot of money. A national health care system will not save us of this expense, it will only add to it. I resent the fact that the CFC is shoving those ballots down our throats.

Kathy Heimbueger
Timothy Court
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: For the record, the CFC sponsors a number of programs concerning abortion and the other issues Mrs. Heimbueger raises.