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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.

**Unborn lives
find defense
in God's law**

To the editors:

I stood with many many others in the form of a cross in Hornell, N.Y. yesterday (Oct. 6). We were braving the elements, but I'm proud I was there.

Prayer will turn this crazy world back to God's rules. I'm 76 years old and I feel the writing is very plain on the wall and those who can add 2+2 and come up with 4 better heed all the warnings before it's too late.

The definition for Abortion should be Down Right Murder with no ifs, ands or buts. People can change that to suit their own particular fancy, but God's law in the Ten Commandments will still prevail. This endless bickering and etc. will not take care of it. I disapprove of many of Rev. Bishops ideas and have told him so and Sex education would be much better left to the parents — The most of which are too busy working for material things and enjoying themselves instead of fulfilling their privilege to teach by work and example the great miracles they have in each offspring.

Unwanted children — there wouldn't be any if only the ones that come to the this world were brought here in the way God prescribed. Quote two people fall in love — have a blessed virgin marriage and fully realized that each marital union act might bring another human being into God's world — Then the darn abortion clinics could and would go bankrupt.

We are just getting into a worse and worse situation and he who sins must reap.

I could write a book and I will continue to pray that all will be saved by prayer.

I have 8 daughters — 31 grandchildren and No. 29 great on the way — I just love children and it hurts me to see them hurt. They don't ask to be born or destroyed or abused. Yours in Christ.

Rita Brown
Rough & Ready Road
Rexville



By Kil - lar - ney's lakes and fells,



Historian seeks Irish memorabilia

To the editors:

I am a historian at Trinity College, Dublin, and I am doing research on the history of Irish immigration to North America, especially between 1840 and 1929. I am particularly interested in learning more about Irishmen and women who settled in the region covered by your newspaper.

I would be very grateful if any of your readers who have old letters,

journals, diaries, or memoirs written by Irish immigrants — or who have old letters written from Ireland to immigrants — would write to me. Thank you for your assistance with my research.

Gerard Moran
41 Scholarstown Road
Rathfarnham
Dublin 16
Ireland

True humility includes trusting obedience

To the editors:

Almost all of us have some disagreement with one or more Church doctrine or teaching, and find ourselves struggling to find the proper response to the disagreement. In many cases our response is not one of humility, obedience, and faith, but some combination of pride, disobedience, and protest — undoubtedly abetted at times by your "humble" columnist Father McBrien.

One needs humility to undertake a comprehensive study of the troubling

Church teachings with an open heart and mind; trying to understand the Magisterium's viewpoint, and being open to the possibility that, just maybe, it is our position that needs modification. One has to exhibit some of the trusting obedience of Mary and her Son in order to accept the teachings now, before fully understanding them, with the hope that, in time, enlightenment will come.

It requires a strong faith to accept with humility and obedience these doctrines and teachings even though

we have doubts — a faith that God will move the Church in the direction of our view if it is the right one. I see no problem with our responding in these ways while retaining our beliefs. We can still provide constructive dissent and contribute to efforts to have the church re-examine its positions — while avoiding all the bitterness and negativism that seems to be getting us nowhere fast.

Ronald J. Tocci
West Church Street
Fairport

Bishop's column lauded for teaching about humanity

To the editors:

One of your readers wrote: "It's all very pleasant to read of Bishop Clark's trips with his friends and of his nieces' writing ..." and "I would think he would use his column to enlighten the people of the diocese on the teachings of God."

I think your correspondent has somehow missed the point. Bishop Clark is teaching us. He is teaching us about our common humanity and our need to share our lives with one an-

other. He is letting us see that he is no different from the rest of us. It's a beautiful act of humility and love. He is our pastor, the Good Shepherd, and we too are his friends and family. In his prayer for the success of the diocesan synod, he wrote: "Give your people the grace to discover your gentle love in one another, and in this discovery, help us discern your will." Isn't that a lovely thought?

The *Courier* teaches some of the precepts of the church but it is more a

news organ. If your reader wants more in-depth knowledge, I recommend Adult Education Classes. Or, even better, become a sponsor in the RCIA program. I dare say that, through catechesis, newcomers into the church learn more about the Catholic Faith than those who have been Catholics all of their lives?

Grace B. Carnes
Eagle Ridge Circle
Rochester