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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.

**Reader muses on opinions offered**

**To the editors:**

Bits and pieces comments, on three columns in the Nov. 7 issue of *Catholic Courier*.

Bishop Clark — The added information of Mr. Hauffbauer of St. John the Baptist Parish, where Bishop Clark preached, at the celebration of their 125th anniversary, brought to mind the following: Unlike Mr. Hauffbauer who walked 10 miles for instruction in the Catholic faith I only walked from my employers to the local Catholic Parish rectory, during my lunch hour and back five times a week. I was greeted by a kind, gentle priest, Father Doran, now deceased. I received my catechism from him.

Now to Father Cuddy's column in the Nov. 7 issue of the *Catholic Courier*. His information about Bridget is about me too. She was in her 20s drawing on the memorized catechism definitions. I was 22 years old in 1952 when I began my journey.

Father Cuddy's words "These concise truths are stored in the memories to draw upon all our lives," certainly does ring true. It has with me and I expect, will to my last days upon earth. I joined our cluster parish — St. Anne's, Palmyra, St. Gregory's, Marion, RCIA class for the first three years. Indeed, I acquired additional knowledge of the Catholic faith. The chief instructor, Bob Joyce and his wife Cassie

do an excellent job preparing candidates for entry into the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil.

Commenting upon Father McBrien's column, Pro-Life doesn't agree, abortion is necessary in cases of rape or incest (even though that particular method is despicable). Whenever a child is conceived in this manner, a new life exists.

There have been people born in this fashion who have testified how glad they were their mothers chose not to abort them. Robert Ripley might have said "Believe It or Not."

**Rena B. Camblin**  
Meadow Drive  
Palmyra

**Classmate offers call to right-ness**

**To the editors:**

Father Cuddy has won a victory in his long running battle to have his picture returned to the masthead of his column.

He alleged that some readers had experienced difficulty finding his column and could have mistaken his for that of Father McBrien.

Now we know which is which. Father McBrien is formally dressed in his picture while Father Cuddy is pictured in a short-sleeved shirt and, as an old Army man, he knows that he is not in proper uniform.

As one of your two surviving classmates, I appeal to you to dress up, Father. Let's be RIGHT!

**Father Raymond G. Heisel**  
Mother of Sorrows Church  
Mt. Read Boulevard  
Rochester



File photo  
**Father Paul J. Cuddy, looking "all right" in his 1957 uniform.**

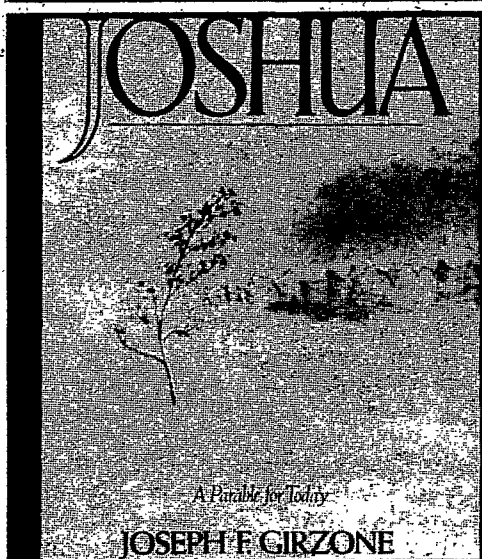
**Effort to teach sex abstinence should be made**

**To the editors:**

The topic on a recent TV program was on "safe sex" and very explicit instructions were given for the use of a condom. This is such a sad and tragic situation when sexual activity seems to be regarded as "just another thing to do" with the possible serious consequences being disregarded.

Two counselors were on the program, and one of them, the man, said that abstinence is the plan to be followed. Can we not make a greater effort to get this message across to our young people, in whatever way we can, through the churches, the schools, the parents, and the work places?

**Mary Studier**  
Mosley Road  
Rochester



**Columnist unfairly attacked novel**

**To the editors:**

Father Cuddy's recent article in which he used the word "insidious" in connection with the book *Joshua* helped to raise my blood pressure. Subtly cunning, deceitful, or treacherous — meaning insidious — would not be words I would use related to this inspiring book.

Yes, Father Girzone (the author) presents Joshua as a simple loving carpenter who touched the hearts of the people with whom he came in contact. Joshua taught the people "that God's prime concern is people, not religious

structures. They exist merely to channel God's word to people. But it's people that God cares about."

Seems to me that Father Girzone's church is the church that was established by Christ. It's when we get all caught up in the trappings of the church, that we lose sight of the church that was established by Christ.

*Joshua*, a fantasy — yes, but isn't it a shame it can't be more of a reality?

**Patricia M. Slimmer**  
Barker Road  
Pittsford

**Call for national health care reflects Catholic concern**

**To the editors:**

I am writing in response to the letter by Kathy Heimbueger (Nov. 14: "Re-sets family center's campaign for national health-care system").

Mrs. Heimbueger says she is opposed to national health care. At Catholic Family Center's (CFC) Justice & Peace Department, we believe — and certainly the recent U.S. Senate race in Pennsylvania indicates — that a serious health care crisis exists. Obviously, the more than 700 Catholic parishioners who responded to our *Action Alert!* and sent in ballots supporting the national Emergency Drive for Health Care agreed with us.

Thirty-seven million Americans lack health insurance coverage. Another 60 million have inadequate coverage. Eighty percent of those without coverage are working families; one-fourth

are children.

According to a 1990 report by the nationally respected Center for Community Change, one-fifth of all pregnant women did not receive health care in the '80s; our infant mortality is the highest in the developed world and twice that of Japan, Sweden and Finland; some 15 million women of reproductive age do not have maternity insurance; only one-half of the women and children eligible for the WIC supplemental food program were helped in 1989 even though each \$1 spent on the program saves \$3 in short-term hospitalization. The list goes on and on.

As Catholics, aren't we called to witness with the poor and vulnerable and to hear all of their concerns? What do we say to the struggling families without coverage? Or to the mothers and fathers, or single parents who

have no coverage for their children? Is it acceptable to ignore our responsibility to act when millions of children are at risk?

Importantly, our *Action Alert!*'s do not necessarily represent an official position of Catholic Family Center. An *Alert!* is simply a way for us to let parishes know about pressing public policy issues. It offers those who are interested a forum or a vehicle to respond.

In a wide variety of ways, Catholic Family Center is actively fighting to improve the plight of families; from preventive programs, to adoption services, to substance abuse counseling, to youth athletics, to support for the parish-based Pro-Life Network. We are proud of what we do at CFC.

**Brian A. Kane, Director**  
Justice & Peace Department  
Catholic Family Center