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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.

## Father Cuddy charmed the faithful

### To the editors:

These are some of my treasured memories of Father Paul J. Cuddy. Years ago first Saturday Masses were celebrated at St. Anne's Church in Palmyra — which of course are dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. There would be first Saturday Luncheons at different neighborhood restaurants. Father Cuddy, with twinkling Irish eyes and a shock of graying white hair was guest priest speaker at Matty's Inn in Clyde. I believe Father Cuddy was pastor of St. John's in Clyde at the time.

A friend asked to go with us to Mass one Sunday. The friend was sitting at the end of the pew. Father Cuddy — who was filling in for our parish priest — came up the aisle, tapped her on the shoulder, beckoned to come with him. Both proceeded to the sacristy. My friend came back up the aisle laden down with boxes headed towards the tables at the rear of the church. They

contained Father Cuddy's traveling store. He always brought rosaries, pamphlets, and religious goods for parishioners to increase their knowledge and devotion to the Catholic faith. I like to think my friend's decision to enter the Catholic Church had a little to do with her chance meeting with Father Cuddy. He did have a certain charm about him.

While Father Cuddy filled in another time for our parish priest, I had the good fortune to converse with him at coffee break following the Mass. We talked of mutual friends when he discovered I hailed from the Manchester, Shortsville area. He also had filled in for the parish priest at St. Dominic's in Shortsville.

Father Cuddy had a commendable habit of matching funds that were sent to the missions overseas. This I had occasion to experience a couple months ago.

My last encounter with Father Cu-

ddy — I happened to be in the vicinity of St. Michael's in Lyons last June. It was a first Saturday. He was filling in for the parish priest. It was a pleasure having him hear my confession. His counseling was gentle, kind and caring — always he would say, say a prayer for me and remember to stop at my traveling store on your way out.

You could say our first and last meetings were on the first Saturdays — dedicated to Our Blessed Mother.

I shall miss him, his column in our weekly Catholic paper. I always read his column first. He had much sage advice for everyone.

I like to think he's in heaven listening with Bishop Sheen to one of Bishop Sheen's tapes. These he recommended to everyone.

Love to you Father Cuddy, in Christ and the Blessed Mother.

**Rena B. Camblin**  
Meadow Drive  
Palmyra

## Liberals apply two standards

### To the editors:

It's all right, according to liberals for protesters to shout and disrupt political rallies, even though they may be infringing on the rights of the speaker and those who came to hear him. But it's all right for abortion protesters to be arrested for harassment when they try to talk women out of abortion.

**John Nawrocki**  
Avenue C  
Rochester



Two police officers in Wichita, Kansas, drag an anti-abortion protester from under a car during a July 31 demonstration at the entrance to an abortion clinic. File photo

## Former quadrant chairwoman blasts plan for schools

### To the editors:

As the former chairperson of the Northeast Quadrant Reorganization Committee, I am appalled and disillusioned with the failure of the Diocese and the Quadrant Board to meet the financial needs of the schools of our region.

Reorganization, five short years ago, was touted as "the only way to go." Surely new closings, financial failure, pastors who complain to the newspapers about the high cost of raising a child in the "Catholic Tradition" were not the vision. Are parents supposed to give up all hopes for even a "semi-neighborhood" Catholic school? Are we now to believe that closing three more schools will stabilize the system? ONE MORE move for our elementary

children or does compromise in fact, go on and on for us in the Northeast?

We need to address the real issues — Money and Responsibility. Are pastors responsible to parents who opt for a Catholic education? Are parents willing to go that extra mile it takes to be involved and make the system fiscally sound? Perhaps it's easier to say "we can't afford it," parish children are not worth the cost of education, to say nothing of the non-parishioners who see the value of our system even more than we ourselves do. More seasoned parishioners need to be supportive and remember they had the choice of a Catholic education when teaching sisters worked for very little and were there to serve us. The scenario is quite different today and yes, it will be more

expensive, but even more importantly it is still worth it.

Consolidation has fallen far short of the expectations of the original committee. The picture is in fact, more bleak than ever for us. Other regions beware! Be the "decision-makers" for your own parish schools. Do not consolidate — hold those meetings, be financially creative, struggle on — because obviously, Diocesan reorganization is not the answer. With it, too many people have to agree to the fact that the education your children receive in your school is worth the regional parishes' money.

**Susan M. Schaefer**  
Heberle Road  
Rochester

## Catholic schools will remain open only if Catholics rediscover them

### To the editors:

The peace of the Christmas holiday remains in my heart as we enter a new year. As I reflect on my blessings one image repeatedly comes to mind. It is the image of a chorus of bright, young faces singing joyfully about the coming of Jesus. Through many various lyrics of Christmas even the tiniest singer proclaims the birth of the Lord.

This image is possible because my children attend a Catholic school. The music of the public school may be equally as loud or joyful, but the message is of Jolly Old St. Nick or Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Our Catholic schools provide so much more than most of us realize. It is in allowing our children to grow up surrounded by the



knowledge that it is acceptable to pray or express our love for God that we provide them with the spiritual tools they need to mature into loving adults.

I know that much is involved in keeping school doors open. Sacrifices are made by parishes and parents to support schools throughout the diocese. Catholic Schools Week is January 26-February 1, 1992. My hope is that we not only "Discover Catholic Schools," but rediscover Catholic schools and keep the doors open and the image of the Christmas carolers alive.

**Terri Hannan**  
Lea Street  
Newark