

CATHOLIC COURIER

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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.

Opinion

Reader criticizes story 'promoting' organization

To the editors:

About 12 percent of the January 16th issue of the *Catholic Courier* was used to cover the United Way-Planned Parenthood debate. That was almost two pages of the total 16 pages. This story may have warranted a small paragraph on an inside page to give the basic facts, but the whole front page? Hardly.

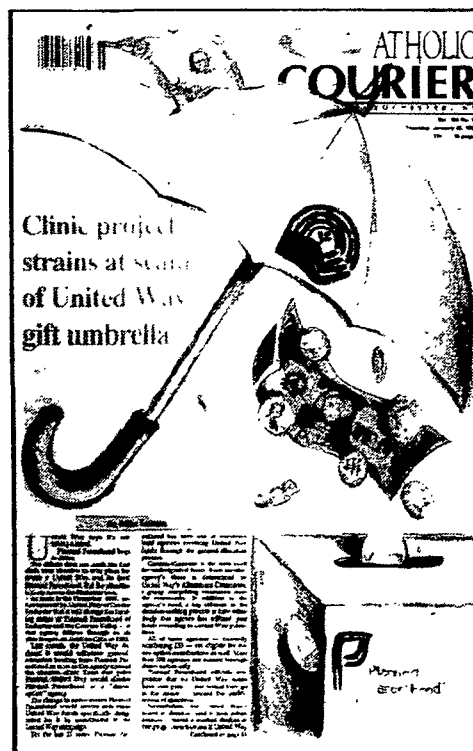
As far as I know, Catholic teaching against use of artificial birth control and against having or performing an abortion has not changed. Also, as far as I know, Planned Parenthood was founded to promote artificial birth control and later expanded to include abortion as part of either its referrals or of its actual services. Therefore, the conclusion which I reach is that no newspaper with "Catholic" in its

masthead, if it is truly Catholic, can in any way even appear to promote an organization such as Planned Parenthood. A front page story in our diocesan newspaper seems to me to do just that — promote it.

Please do use the *Catholic Courier* to support organizations and issues which are in agreement with official Church teaching.

Edith Arganbright
Harvinton Drive, Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: The article in question outlined the origin of the conflict, discussed the implications of possible donor protest on both sides of the abortion debate, and offered the commentary of Catholic observers, including Father Anthony Mugarero. We cannot understand how such an article could be construed as supporting or promoting Planned Parenthood.



This front page story focused on the debate surrounding United Way's funding of Planned Parenthood.

Margaret Sanger created 'money machine'

To the editors:

As a response to your article on Planned Parenthood (*Catholic Courier*, Jan. 16: "Clinic project strains at seams of United Way gift umbrella"), I submit this letter.

At one time, I felt Planned Parenthood had something good to offer, excluding abortion. Some religious as well feel this way. With a little research, I have concluded that Planned Parenthood is a wolf in sheep's clothing; it makes money by playing up to the relativism of moral values. To really know what Planned Parenthood offers, one must study its history and its founder, Margaret Sanger. Today, Margaret is lauded as its champion and patron saint, giving out awards in her name.

In the '40s and '50s, with all her energy, Margaret condoned population control and abortion, convincing influential politicians to back her. She believed in hereditary improvement of a race, sharing ideas with Hitler's top scientists. In "Pivot of Civilization" she wrote, "If we must have welfare give it to the rich, not the poor." She criticized those people who gave funds for maternal care for the poor.

For Judeo-Margaret challenged long-held Judeo-Christian values. She won many unsuspecting churches to her philosophy, as well as laudable charitable organizations and the largest of corporations. But Margaret's sincerity and hard work have nothing to do with objective truth, truth that Jesus preached and claimed to be, truth valued by the Roman Catholic church.

Christian leaders as early as 90 A.D. wrote in the Didache, "do not kill a fetus by abortion." Until 1930 all denominations taught this, then Margaret started her movement. In *Grand Illusions*, George Grant described that she had created a "cult" to control population. In 1917 she wrote "more children for the fit — less for the unfit — this is the chief issue of birth control." Birth Control continues to be one of Planned Parenthood's reasons to enter our school system and our children's lives, under the guise of health care.

People who call anti-choicers "zealots" are taking sides and standing firm with Margaret Sanger, the infamous, pagan-minded, anti-Christian and founder of Planned Parenthood. For preachers of other denominations

who favor abortion let them read Matthew 25:45 where it says, "what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

I do not believe Margaret understood the value of objective truth, that which comes from God and is taught by the Catholic Church. Based on objective truth, Catholics have the best sex education program and the best guides to living a pure life. When I learned what the Church taught about the value of abstinence before marriage, about Natural Family Planning and the need for the sacraments to improve one's battle against temptation, I found Planned Parenthood to be a farce. Planned Parenthood is a money machine that treats the symptoms of human sexuality run amuck, yet supports the cause — more sex, "safe" sex.

Catholics must never side with any Planned Parenthood program. These programs, started by Margaret Sanger, lack the guidance of God, and are merely precepts made by men which lead to destruction of our spiritual lives and destruction of the unborn.

Frank Netti
Weedsport-Sennett Road, Weedsport

Pull together to make sure Catholic schools succeed

To the editors:

DISCOVER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
It's a matter of choices and how we handle disappointments.

If we are disappointed with the RG&E for trying to saddle us with the cleanup cost of the Ice Storm, are we going to quit them and not have gas and electricity? Should we quit the USA if we are disappointed in the President and Congress for the recession?

People are disappointed with whomever they perceive is to blame for the financial situation of the Catholic Schools in the Northeast Quadrant (NEQ). Some blame the Quadrant Board or the Bishop or their parish priest or others blame the families who left the system in the past.

But the time for blame is over. It is now a time for rebuilding. Don't use a decision or a system that you don't agree with as an excuse to quit. Get involved. Go to Board meetings, find out what is going on, find out what you can do to make it work.

We know it is sad. We know it is

DISCOVER



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

hard. No one is ecstatic over the current situation, but we can make a difference in the future. Whoever thought it would be this difficult to send our children to a school of choice? But that is just the point, we do have a choice. Our children are watching. What better example can we give our children than to see how we really get to work for something we believe in. Let us put aside our pain and give them the educational experience they deserve.

Be a part of the reason that the NEQ schools succeed. Be a big part of the rebuilding and the recruitment. Together, let's show our community the strength and love and commitment in our schools. Let's make more people aware of the educational opportunities in the NEQ Catholic Schools. Let's fill up the remaining schools, and remain positive about what the future can hold for our children.

Get on board and "Discover Catholic Schools"!

Patrick and Lauren Bates
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