

1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624
716/328-4340

President
Bishop Matthew H. Clark

General Manager
Bishop Dennis W. Hickey

Editor/Asst. Gen. Mgr.
Karen M. Franz

Editorial Department

Managing Editor
Richard A. Kiley

Staff Writers
Lee Strong
Finger Lakes
Rob Cullivan
Monroe County
Mike Latona
Southern Tier

Photo Editor
Babette G. Augustin

Photo Interns
Kellie Mc Cann
Erik Kunkel

Business Department

Circulation Manager
Jeanne A. Morin

Advertising Manager
Bernie Puglisi

Advertising Account Exec.
Kathy Welsh

Receptionist
Amy D'Accursio

Production Department

Graphics Manager
Lorraine Hennessey

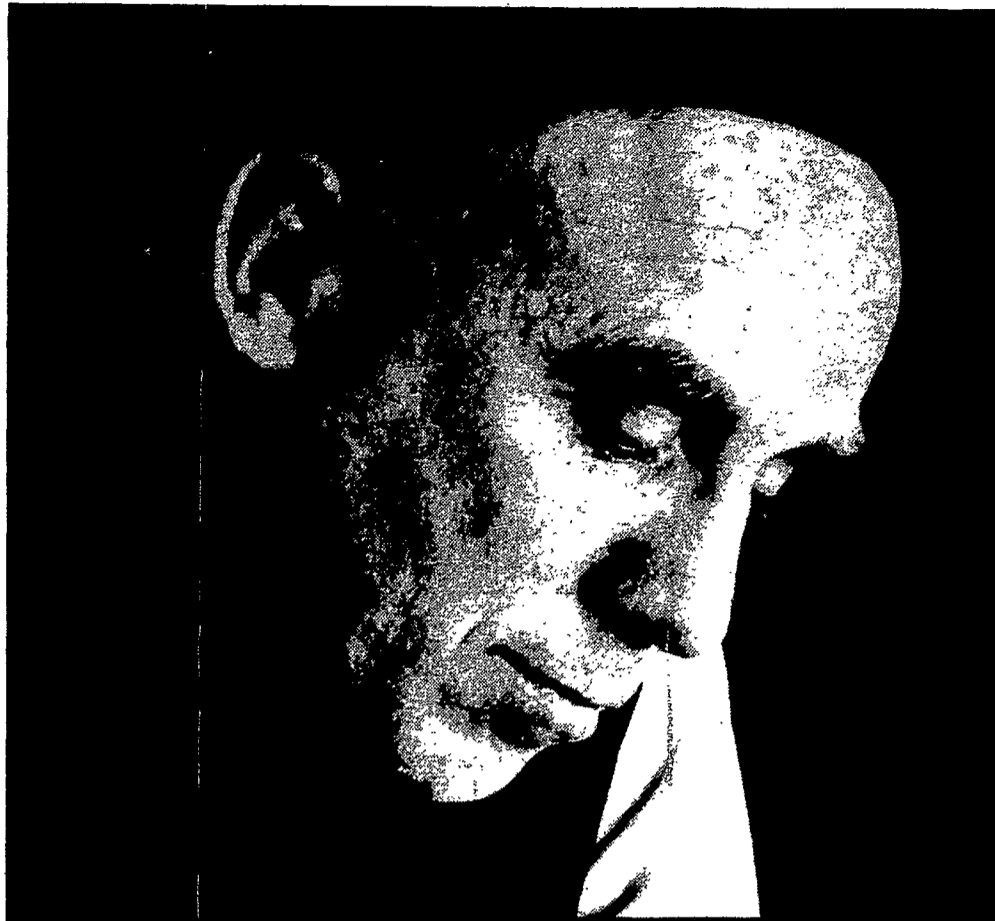
Graphic Artist
Michael Fleckenstein

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.



File photo
Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk, published his candid autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, in 1948.

Merton would mourn Catholic school closing

To the editors:

I have been trying to put into respectful and responsible words my feelings about closing even one more Catholic school I have now found the words even though they are not my own.

"... I am overwhelmed at the thought of the tremendous weight of moral responsibility that Catholic parents accumulate upon their shoulders by not sending their children to Catholic schools ...

"Is it any wonder that there can be no peace in a world where everything possible is done to guarantee that the youth of every nation will grow up absolutely without moral and religious discipline, and without a shadow of an interior life, or that spirituality and charity and faith which alone can safeguard the treaties and agreements made by governments.

"And Catholics, thousands of Catholics everywhere, have the consummate audacity to weep and complain because God does not hear their prayers

for peace, when they have neglected not only His will, but the ordinary dictates of natural reason and prudence, and let their children grow up according to the standards of a civilization of hyenas."

(From) Thomas Merton's *The Seven Storey Mountain*.

How can we Catholics religious and laity alike abandon our Catholic Schools especially when God is banned in our government schools, Planned Parenthood markets abortion and promiscuity, and education is reduced to getting a good paying job and not a way to find the Truth of living a life spent in knowing, loving and serving our God? "Suffer the children to come to me and do not stop them."

I will pray for my Bishop and all the clergy the following:

"Do not go gentle into that good night.

Rage, Rage against the dying of the Light."

Mary E. Quinn
Willits Road, Ontario

'Joshua' impressed reader

To the editors:

In reading this week's edition of the *Courier* I found it hilarious that you should run a critique/book report on the book *The Shepherd* by Father Joseph Girzone, written by guest contributor Monsignor Charles Diviney (Jan. 23: "Father Girzone offers far-fetched book"), and right below it an advertisement for the same book by the Logos Book Store!

I prefer the advertisement because to me it's closer to the truth. Some people see things as they are and ask why? Others see things as they could be and ask why not? To some, it may sound far fetched; to others it may be full of hope. Beauty is seen through the eye of the beholder.

I grew up in the Church that was too authoritarian, anti-feminist, legalistic, harsh, non-ecumenical and obsessed with sex, and it would seem it hasn't changed at all over the past 56 years.

Living within the Rochester Diocese has given me great hope for the future of the Church thanks to the faith-sharing and courage of the people I've met here and live with on a daily basis.

However, when I look at the hope generated by the 2nd Vatican Council and then at some of the communications that come out of Rome, I have to ask whatever happened to that hope? It seems to have withered into thin air, or was it snuffed out by the fearful in the name of the faithful?

Oh well, so much for faith-filled or is it faith-less decision making?

Patti Federowicz
Clover Road
Apalachin

EDITORS' NOTE: *Critical evaluation — whether positive or negative — of any work reviewed in the Catholic Courier is solely the judgment of the bylined reviewer, and is not influenced by advertisements.*

Do not 'bash' Bishop Clark

To the editors:

Enough is enough. Enough with the bishop-bashing over the Catholic School issue. It sounds like the old saying of killing the messenger because we don't like the message. I am sympathetic with those who grieve over the closing of their parish school, and the difficulty of transferring their children to another school. But it is difficult to be sympathetic with the "parochial-school-fundamentalists" who do not believe there can be another side to this issue, who do not believe you can have a Catholic community without a parish school, and who claim they have the only orthodoxy. The logical next step for them is to form "operation rescue squads" to block doorways of the public schools to prevent Catholic children from entering at peril to their souls.

I sincerely hope we can maintain a Catholic School system especially for the children who most need it. I sincerely wish our Catholic people would expend as much concern and energy in securing quality education in the public schools where most of our Catholic children attend.

Father Daniel P. Tormey, Pastor
St. Mary of the Assumption Church
Main Street
Scottsville

'Super' Sunday

To the editors:

Super Bowl XXVI and all the excitement it created are over. Thousands of people in Minneapolis, millions more before television sets throughout the country — all caught up in a fever of enthusiasm for the game. Special clothes were bought, families and friends invited, and feasts prepared.

Now think back to another Super Sunday — almost 2,000 years ago — when God, in an act of immeasurable power and love, raised Jesus from the dead. Unlike the talented players from the Bills and the Redskins Jesus will never be forgotten. He will never retire! And the "post-game" victory party following Jesus' resurrection goes on and on. Whenever we gather together as a "Body of Christ," in his name, he is among us, healing and loving us, empowering us to perform the good works he has already prepared for us to do.

If we would truly reflect on all this, maybe the "amen" we say at Mass could become truly meaningful. In fact were we really to appreciate the fruits of Jesus' amazing victory, I imagine our joy and enthusiasm would be such that the wildest Super Bowl game would seem tame in comparison!

Diane Farr Knittle
Parkridge Drive
Pittsford

Father Cuddy missed

To the editors:

The sudden death of Father Paul Cuddy was a tragic loss not only to the *Courier* but to all the faithful in the Rochester Diocese.

I pray that Our Lady of the Rosary and a choir of nuns — with habits — accompanied him on his journey to the High Priest. He was probably greeted, "Welcome home, Oh good and faithful servant."

Rest in peace, Father Cuddy.
Ralph Bleier
Paddy Hill Drive Rochester