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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.

CATHOLIC COURIER

DIocese of Rochester, NY
Vol. 103 No. 18 Thursday, February 6, 1992 75c 20 pages

Parishes, agencies seek means to combat effects of persevering recession

Newspaper headlines and the stories on television and radio newscasts continue to proclaim that the nation is in a recession.

Indeed, President Bush spent a portion of his Jan. 28 State of the Union speech discussing the nation's current economic distress. Using rhetoric similar to what he aimed at Saddam Hussein, the chief executive of the recession "will not stand."

The recession does, indeed, stand in New York State. It can be felt in the rising unemployment rate, which has risen to over 8 percent, according to the state Department of Labor.

Unemployment in the state, including the 12 parishes that constitute the Diocese of Rochester, exists in the declining availability of non-farm jobs. In November and December of 1991, the unemployment rate rose to 8.5 percent.

Some people begin to tell the whole

RISE IN DEMANDS ON CHURCH SUPPORT

Area's jobless rate up

WELFARE REFORMS

Recession poses deep questions

To the editors:

Rob Cullivan's coverage of "Parishes, agencies seek means to combat effects of persevering recession" in the Feb. 6 *Courier* was most appropriately given front page coverage as it addresses how the Church is involved in another challenge confronting so many of our brothers and sisters.

First, we must ask the very important questions — "What went wrong with America?" and "Why is the U.S. economy lifeless?" Over the past decade some 2,300 U.S. owned factories have moved to Mexico and to the Pacific rim. They are attracted by Mexico's low wages and lack of effective government regulation, and the lack of pollution control. These factories have moved into the "Maquiladora" system — U.S. owned plants in northern Mexico's free-trade zone, which pay an average wage of 60 cents per hour. American manufacturers have also relocated their factories to Malaysia, China, Japan, Latin America, Russia and Indonesia — where teenagers are

paid 15 cents an hour to make a famous makers tennis shoes.

The Big Three U.S. automakers have all announced that 1991 was a bad year. But General Motors, Ford and Chrysler all reported production was boosted at their Mexican plants. They hired extra Mexican help and increased exports to the U.S. Ford increased auto production in Mexico more than 35 percent in the first 11 months of 1991. Chrysler's increase was 17 percent and GM by almost 11 percent. Yet GM announced it would eliminate some 74,000 United States jobs. GM is one of the largest employers in Mexico. On January 15, GM announced it would begin making trucks in Communist China. Zenith recently moved to Mexico, and Piper Cub moved to Russia. The Jolly Green Giant walked out of Watsonville, Calif., last spring taking with him some 382 frozen-vegetable packing jobs. The list goes on and on.

The Free-Trade Agreement being pushed by President Bush will mean

the loss of an additional hundreds of thousands of jobs in the U.S. as more corporations head south. It will also greatly increase the rights of multinational corporations at the expense of workers and the environment. Who is acting as travel agent for these companies? Could the culprit be the Overseas Private Investment Corporation?

...The Reagan and now the Bush Administration have systematically dismantled the economic infrastructure of the United States. We must insist that every U.S. factory that moved overseas during the past 12 years find a way to return to the United States. Poverty and unemployment are being imported into the U.S. We must take care of things at home. Christians must join hands and voices and send a loud and clear message to Washington to "FIX AMERICA FIRST."

Susan Stehling
Raccoon Run,
Victor

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter was edited to comply with space limitations.

Synod seems set to be mere 'flailing effort'

To the editors:

In my parish bulletin I received an enclosure entitled "Synod 1993" dated February 1992. Therein was a section devoted to "What the Synod Can and Can't Do."

It begins with what might be termed an official downgrading of the Synod contained in the somber warning not to expect too much conveyed in the words of the Synod director, "We have to take a realistic approach to understanding what the Synod can accomplish. The Synod is only one part of a wider solution. No matter what the Synod suggests, the problems of our time will not just disappear."

Pray tell, what might be this wider solution? Should not a Synod per se address itself to a wider purview of problems and subsequent solutions derived from and based on considera-

tion of the day to day evangelical experiences of the Diocese? A Synod, it seems to me, should be more than a halfway process to be utilized in evaluating what has happened and thereby reforming where necessary our evangelical directions.

Instead I perceive clouds of uncertainty, timidity, and misdirection hovering over the Synod.

The messages that I get from this enclosure are all one-sided to wit:

(1) Church discipline is overbearing and this has much to do with present conditions.

(2) Unspecified doctrinal matters plague the Bishop.

(3) The voices of the angry, the alienated, and minorities who have abandoned the church need to be heard.

... I note that all the members of the

Synod writing committees were selected by Bishop Clark — the democratic, community way? It would also be interesting to know how many committee members hold conservative or orthodox views. From the tone of the Synod enclosure, the number is small, if any.

The Synod, to me, represents no more than a flailing effort to address problems that have arisen from the application of a "Catholicism" that has suffered serious mutilation from the theories and ministrations of modernists...

William T. Hammill
Clardale Drive
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: The author's comments were edited to comply with the *Catholic Courier's* Letters Policy.