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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.



Believers should brush up on their basics

To the editors:

"Remember, O Man, that thou art but dust and to dust thou shalt return." These are the words spoken by the priest on Ash Wednesday as he applies blessed palm ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the Cross. If only more Catholics would remember these words throughout their lives, there would be fewer of them going to Hell.

"It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). "For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ" (Romans 14:10). These are but a few of the warnings apropos for our age in which far too many think that this life is simply to eat and drink and be merry for tomorrow we die. Holy

Mother Church teaches that this life is not only a test but a preparation for the next life — Heaven. The Four Last Things — death, judgment, heaven and hell — are inevitable.

Hence the first law of the Catholic Church is the salvation of souls (*Suprema Lex, Salus Animarum*). This is Her supreme task and everything else is secondary. But, it may be asked in this confusing times in which we live, how do we save our souls? The Church says to Keep the Faith. Thus by holding onto those immutable and inviolable truths of the divine Catholic religion, you will save your souls. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word, and My Father will love him and We will come to Him, and will make our abode with him," says Our

Blessed Lord (John 14:23). Therefore in living the true and unchangeable Catholic religion, founded and preserved by Our Divine Lord Himself, we truly save our souls.

Therefore during this Lent let us obtain copies of the Baltimore catechism (Tan Publishers) and brush up on our precious Catholic religion. For after our death we will either hear "Come ye blessed of My Father" or "Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire" (Matthew 25:34, 41) from Our Blessed Lord. Let us recall this fact frequently during our entire lives, beginning this Lent. Let us begin now.

Richard V. Hussar
Jordan Avenue
Rochester

Catholic Courier must appeal to a 'higher' authority

To the editors:

In discussing the *Catholic Courier*, I was told it had an independent status and freedom of the press. I say: "Bunk!" By claiming to be a *Catholic* journal, it can't appeal to The Constitution of the United States. It is in a higher court. There, the word of God reigns supreme.

Seems to me, God is very touchy about His word, especially "Justice." He also has this thing about "His people." It is only fair that the journal reflect balanced news about the Diocesan Church. I know it would make

His folks outside Monroe County happy.

I would be happy, if it had a more religious tone. I remember Bishop Clark's 1990 Christmas message. I wanted to make a New Year's card of it to send it to the whole wide world. That's how I want to feel about the *Courier*, generally!

Incidentally, it seems that whenever unsavory social issues are mentioned, a black image is featured. For example, a beautiful black child is displayed above the heading, "Americans treat babies like trash!" Am I just paranoid?

Elizabeth T. Rivkin
Geneva

EDITORS' NOTE: Our Feb. 13 issue used a photograph of a black infant to accompany a letter to the editor regarding abortion. The photo in question was chosen because it was the only realistic image of a baby we could find in "clip art" — books of generic illustrations sold by graphic-arts firms. We rely on these books because the firms selling the art have obtained the permission of all individuals whose likenesses are used — or of their guardians — for reproduction as editorial illustration.

All students need values taught through the Catholic school system

To the editors:

One question that Father Tormey's letter (*Catholic Courier*, Feb. 20: "Do not 'bash' Bishop Clark") brings to mind is which children does he consider most in need of Catholic education? Which children would he judge can do without? As a Catholic and as a parent I find that an impossible line to draw. I also find it a frightening position that is far too common among those in authority.

In today's secular society the benefits of a Catholic education should be obvious. Knowledge of our faith combined with daily reinforcement of behavior and values consistent with this faith provide the tools necessary to live and defend our faith.

Public schools provide an environment that often is in direct conflict with our beliefs. Christmas without Christ, sex education without morality, abortion "counseling," money for con-

doms but not for libraries and separation of Church and state to the extreme are issues that weight far heavier than the difficulty of transferring children to another school.

What we need are more "parochial-school-fundamentalists" who are willing to stand up for our Roman Catholic faith and the spiritual future of our children.

Dorothy L. Hayes
Rock Beach Road, Rochester