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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 FAMILY CENTER

Boycott would only harm the needy

To the editors:

On March 26, 1992, you carried an article entitled, "Abortion clinic opponents target United Way." There are other issues that must be considered. Your article stated that "agencies are going to be hurt." Agencies are not really the issue; the *people* of our community are going to be hurt by the proposed opposition to the United Way. United Way services are not just charitable handouts but services which strengthen and support families.

In this past year, Catholic Family Center provided services to over 39,000 individuals, many of those services supported through United Way funding. Catholic Family Center receives the largest allocation of United Way funds in our community. These services include:

- Inner City Counseling and support for families struggling with poverty.
- Pregnancy Counseling and Prevention services for high risk teens.
- Catholic Youth Organization training, tutoring and employment services for disadvantaged youth.
- Counseling for families in high stress.
- Adoption placement and family support services ... *The only United Way supported adoption service in the community.*

Thousands of individuals and families, in the greater Rochester area, count on United Way's fiscal support to these and other essential community programs. Bishop Clark has said, "Opposing the United Way will not stop the opening of (an abortion) clinic but

will jeopardize the funding of a host of county services to the poor, the disabled, the needy and many others as well."

The target of opposition to the abortion clinic should not be the United Way but the abortion clinic. We must ask "Will this clinic be stopped by opposition to the United Way or will we only limit our community services for our neighbors in need?"

We encourage your readers to remember the pro-family services of the Catholic Family Center, and other agencies, and weigh the greater good when they make their United Way contribution.

Judith O'Brien, President
Carolyn A. Portanova, Exec. Director
Catholic Family Center
50 Chestnut Street, Rochester

United Way deal with agency is smoke, mirrors

To the editors:

The recent agreement reached by the United Way of Greater Rochester and Planned Parenthood of Rochester is "not" in the best interest of the entire community as they stated in the recent issue of *United Way News*. It is nothing more than smoke and mirrors that a magician would use to trick the audience. The agreement does benefit Planned Parenthood but does not benefit the "entire" community.

If one part of the local Planned Parenthood provides surgical — abortion — services while the larger organization receives funds from the United Way, this "directly" supports abortion in our community. Simply stating that they are two separate services is misleading and false. A simple test to verify this is to ask would the surgical — abortion — service exist without the larger local Planned Parenthood. The



United Way

answer to that is no.

So, in good conscience I can no longer contribute to the United Way at all. To do so would violate my conviction that abortion is wrong and not to be supported or condoned. Instead I

will increase my financial support to the Diocesan Thanks Giving Appeal and I suggest other Catholics consider doing this.

Joseph P. Mancuso
Monaco Drive, Rochester

Planned Parenthood helps to stem the tide of AIDS

To the editors:

I found your articles on diocesan programs for HIV and AIDS infected families heartwarming (*Catholic Courier*, March 26: "Diocesan program extends loving care to families confronting HIV and AIDS" and "Mother and child touched others during short lives"). How generous is our community toward those infected with this disease. The mission is unfortunately incomplete without acknowledging that this horrible disease can be pre-

vented. Part of the mission should include educating the community that the spread of HIV can be arrested by abstinence of sexual activity or by using condoms.

I continued reading the *Courier* and read the article about the two groups who are opposing the United Way campaign because of funding Planned Parenthood of Rochester and the Genesee Valley ("Abortion clinic opponents target United Way"). Planned Parenthood is providing an extremely

important service to our community by educating against the spread of HIV and by providing sexually active people with condoms, the barrier needed to stop the spread of this disease.

I plan on increasing my donation to United Way this year, and by using the donor option to Planned Parenthood. I will help stop the spread of the AIDS disease.

Elaine D. Ashworth
Rosewood Drive
Pittsford