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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.

Numerous friends help girl in coma

To the editors:

On April 16 1991, you carried a beautifully written story about "Angel" ("Community support for girl stirs Gates family").

As Rob Cullivan stated in his story, there were a lot of names that he was unable to acknowledge in his article.

I really feel that some of our friends and family deserve recognition: the Albertis, Cringolis, Marinos, Nicoletas, Monagans, Montemurros, Rutts, Dolly Lauria, Russ Grasso, Don Bissonnetti and John Turtu who helped with the conversion of our garage; Father Tom Corbett for his prayers and support.

Sister Edith Francione of the Mercy motherhouse who has precarious health problems has spent numerous hours praying and saying the rosary with "Angel."

Sincere thanks to everyone, and also Bishop Matthew H. Clark who is so very busy but still found time to remember "Angel."

Betsy M. McCabe
Ford Avenue
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: Mrs. McCabe, a member of St. Theodore's Parish in Gates, is the grandmother of Angelique Ramos.

'Pro-choice' misleads; it equals pro-abortion

To the editors:

There is a prevailing myth among a portion of society, which includes some Catholics, that there is a significant difference in the position held between the terms; pro-choice and pro-abortion. Though there is a difference in spelling, in practice there essentially is none.

One either consistently chooses life or one chooses death and is willing to allow the choice of killing a pre-born baby, in other words, abortion. Further, those who called themselves pro-abortion years ago don't refer to themselves now as pro-life but instead as pro-choice.

So, for all intent and purpose, the term "pro-choice" is disingenuous. To be ingenuous it should become a phrase; pro-choice to kill.

To try to hide behind an innocuous sounding term, pro-choice, in order to assuage one's conscience and without comprehending its ramifications is an exercise in ignorance and/or self-deception because, understood realistically, pro-choice and pro-abortion are synonymous.

Gerard Ehmann
Caroline Street, Rochester

Story, art was offensive, tasteless, untimely

To the editors:

Regarding the article entitled "Vatican-Nazi speculation revived" by Rob Cullivan (*Catholic Courier*, March 26):

The large front-page photograph of Pope Pius the 12th, juxtapositioned with Adolf Hitler, inferring anti-Jewish collaboration is the most offensive picture I have ever seen.

During the Second World War, the pope's position was particularly precarious because Italy and Germany were allies at that time. Despite this, available records indicate, that the pope did whatever he could to assist millions of Jews and non-Jews alike who were paying a terrible price for their opposition to the Nazi regime.

My overall reaction to the article is that it is inappropriate, highly speculative, untimely, and in very poor taste.

William V. Reynolds, M.D.
Pine Trail, Honeoye Falls



Erik Kunkel/Photo intern
Betsy McCabe holds a photograph of her granddaughter, Angelique ("Angel") Ramos.

Breakfast club explores male spirit

To the editors:

We read with interest the letter of Frank Netti (*Catholic Courier*, March 5: "Men need to seek out more spiritual renewal") concerning the synod and the spiritual renewal of the men of the diocese. The fact that the need for this renewal is not an explicit theme is not surprising in light of the following. Of those responding to the survey which helped in formulating the (synod) themes, about 66 percent were women and 34 percent were men. These figures are nearly an exact match to the composition of the writing committees.

We do perceive this need and have taken the initiative to work together on our spiritual development. As the "Men's Breakfast Club" of Good Shepherd Parish we meet every other

week at 6:45 a.m. to share our struggles with our Christian spirituality. It is a time for openness in relating our joys and sorrows and our common concerns and experiences. Our gatherings are informal, with no set agenda and no designated leaders.

Much has been written and televised recently about the secular men's movement. Spokesmen like Robert Bly and Sam Keen have reflected on the male spirit and helped to open the discussion of what it means to be a man in our contemporary society. There is some perception that these activities are anti-feminist, perhaps a form of backlash to the women's movement. This is not at all descriptive of our group. On the contrary, we necessarily focus on both men and women in our discussions. If we seek spiritual renewal as males, this can only happen in the context of our relationships with women, as well as how we interact with other men. We cannot recognize our sexuality and spirituality in isolation from half the population. Indeed, a great deal of our sharing deals with male-female relationships, e.g., husband and wife, father and daughter, and friend.

Our Breakfast Club has been an exciting and rewarding form of support and renewal. In this Lenten season, we particularly encourage the men of the diocese to reflect on their spiritual lives and to consider ways in which they can be renewed. Perhaps in an ad hoc way, this need for renewal can become a seventh theme as we, the Church of Rochester, gather for the Diocesan Synod.

Men's Breakfast Club
Church of the Good Shepherd
Henrietta

