

**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.

**Pro-choicers' words display hatred**

To the editors:

I went out to Buffalo last Monday morning (April 20). I wanted to be publicly counted as Pro Life. I wanted to be able to see for myself the truth about Operation Rescue's tactics and if they were the violent extremists the media say they are. I wanted to stand with other Americans who believe that our nation's sanctioning of abortion on demand is a great evil that must be stopped. I wanted to pray for the victims of abortion, the mother and her child. And I hoped that perhaps by my presence a mother would think twice about what she was doing not only to her own body but also to the life that was in her. I wanted to save lives.

I was overwhelmed by the greatest shame and sorrow I have ever felt as I listened to the cheers of college age girls as cars with Pro Choice signs drove by. Is it such a victory knowing another innocent life is being taken because there is no room in this country for a new life that is unplanned? ...

... Being there reminded me of the Vietnam War demonstrations because of all the young people that were present. ... The differences between the Vietnam War demonstrations and today's abortion demonstrations are remarkable. Then our young people demonstrated thinking they were saving lives. Monday they cheered while lives were being destroyed in that Main street establishment they were protecting. Then parents and adult community leaders did not participate on the streets. Monday we adults were there to express with our prayers and by our presence that this is not a just cause...

And then as I listened to their chants and slogans that were filled with scorn and insentience for people who truly believe that they were witnesses to a crime and praying to God for forgiveness and deliverance from this evil, I wondered what had happened to make God fearing people such an



Kellie Mc Cann/Photo intern  
**Pro-choice demonstrators Andrea Reade of Cheektowaga (right) and Tracey Stern of Atlanta argue Tuesday, April 28, with the Rev. Keith Tucci (left), executive director of Operation Rescue, outside the Erie Medical Center on High Street, Buffalo.**

anathema to these young people? ...

... My last impression saddened and disturbed me the most and reminded me of Rome before its downfall. Why did I see and hear so much hatred and bitterness as I looked across the street at these young people? Why did they make up slogans about rosaries and ovaries? Why chant God is a Dyke? ...

... When our young can blaspheme God so easily and see Him as our enemy instead of our Loving Father, we parents and educators alike have taught them little. When we take a life to better our own we are truly lost as a nation and as a people.

Two prayers I said all the way home "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" and "What profits a man if he loses his soul?"

Planned Parenthood profits every time a life is taken and I will resist to

my utmost the presence of an abortuary here in Rochester. I will not allow the United Way leaders to obscure the fact that they are accomplices to the talking of life by their intransigence in retaining Planned Parenthood's full membership status. By their recognition and funding of Planned Parenthood, they are most certainly involved and people have every right to donate directly to agencies who promote and support families and not be participants in this recognition. I will continue praying that this national scourge will end with His Divine intercession. Evil triumphs when good people remain silent.

Mary E. Quinn  
Willits Road  
Ontario

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

**Bishop's actions raise doubts about synod**

To the editors:

In response to Mr. Mike Drexler's letter to the editor, "Synod offers chance to shape future" (*Catholic Courier*, March 26), I can only state that my negative reaction is based on experience.

The experience of watching Bishop Clark preside over a precipitous decline in the strength of our priesthood, religious, and the Diocesan school system.

The experience of seeing concrete evidence of ill-formed and malformed

catechetical exposition to our youth.

The experience of witnessing him turning only a sociological ear to our troubles and little or no ear to the spiritual travail afflicting our society and the Rochester Diocese.

The Bishop is not preaching the basics and fundamentals of our Faith. If he were, for example, his seminary population would be ample as experience shows in other areas, and yes the Diocesan schools would be blooming, despite their financial problems which could be alleviated by pruning an

overbloated bureaucracy, and using an imaginative fair approach to the people at large for financial support. I, for one, would be a willing contributor to such a Catholic school system which would go a long way in relieving the present anemia of the Catholic Faith in our Diocese.

I pray for the success of the Synod, but for that to be, Christian or Catholic, not secular humanism, must underline its conclusions.

William T. Hammill  
Clardale Drive, Rochester

**Closing schools and aborting babies are both wrong**

To the editors:

I believe in God. I go to a Catholic school and I try to follow the Ten Commandments. I think that closing Catholic schools is wrong. Also, I think that abortion is breaking God's law.

We are having a war right now. Many people may not know it, but in a war you kill people. We are not bombing or shooting people, but we are destroying unborn babies. People think it is wrong to use the death penalty, but they think it is quite all right to have an abortion. I disagree! God intended for us to have children. He never thought we would kill his unborn children. If you plan to have an abortion, Please Don't. Have the baby and put it up for adoption. There are many people who can't have children and would love to adopt a baby.

I also think we are in a war by what we are doing to Catholic education. I love to learn about God and I know my classmates do too. They believe in God. If there are no more Catholic schools, where will children learn about God and their faith? They can't learn it all in church once a week.

Children need Catholic schools and their parents to teach them our faith.

This is what I believe. It would be hard to live my life without God.

Katie Tytler  
Grade 6, St. Rita's School  
Webster

**Pierce column praised as a welcome addition**

To the editors:

My congratulations on your new "Faith and Work" column by Gregory F. Augustine Pierce. His column is interesting, thought-provoking, and very apropos to the real problems faced by people today. He brings a refreshing lay viewpoint to your "Columnists" pages. He is a wonderful example of "local boy makes good" who, with his

fellow Rochesterian, William Droel, has done path-breaking work on behalf of the competent and confident laity of today's Catholic Church. I cast one enthusiastic vote for the continuance of his column!

Father Robert L. Collins  
St. Thomas More Church  
East Avenue  
Rochester