

1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624
716/328-4340

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.



AP/Wide World Photos
A police officer holds aloft the legs of a handcuffed pro-life demonstrator, after Operation Rescue protesters crossed barricades May 1 onto the property of an Amherst, N.Y., clinic operated by Dr. Shalom Press.

No one wins in debate if protesters lose 'cool'

To the editors:

If the anti-abortionists in Buffalo had kept their cool and maintained prayer vigils, I would have more respect for them.

There are no winners when people resort to name calling and blows. When one is attacked verbally and physically, instinct prompts retaliation. Thus hatred builds to breed more violence.

God gave us all free will. As Christians we may not approve of the way others use this gift, but we are not supposed to judge.

I do not condemn anyone who has had an abortion. I feel they are misguided, and that in trying to erase a

mistake, they make a bigger one by taking a life. The people who go through this need help rather than judgment.

I am not Pro-Choice. As a Christian, I do not believe that my body belongs only to myself. I belong to God and if I willfully injure my body, I sin.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 — "Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, and you are the temple."

Lillian Adams
14 Bennett Ave.
Holcomb

Rescue sent clear word from Buffalo

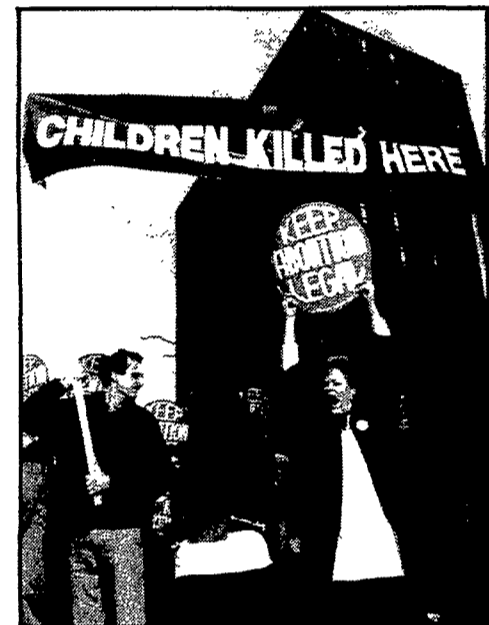
To the editors:

I can't say in words how proud I am of all the folks from children through senior citizens who took part in Operation Rescue to make it the success it was in Buffalo with the good effects it produced. It was covered daily in the media outside the continental United States also. I have a news story of it printed in Hawaii (April 20).

Abortion kills babies — the message came through loud and clear!

If you haven't joined Rochester Area Right to Life, you can call their office at 716/621-4690.

Mary Rita Crowe
East Main Street
Rochester



AP/Wide World Photos
A pro-choice demonstrator shouts at pro-life protesters in front of Erie Medical Center in Buffalo April 23.

Verdict aftermath compels soul search

To the editors:

The verdict in the Rodney King trial and the events following it cause us to reflect and add our voices to those already raised in response to what we have witnessed throughout our country. We feel a sadness and are outraged. The events compel us to personal examination — regarding our own attitudes and actions in our individual lives — as well as call the nation to examine the social structures and policies that are part of its make up.

We feel a profound frustration over what we can do. We anguish over the reality this portrays. We feel, however, that we have to enter this struggle alongside our brothers and sisters in order to face our sinfulness, and then seek ways to bridge the chasm that separates the people of this country because of poverty, racism, ignorance, and fear.

As Sisters of Mercy committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and called to act in solidarity with the economically poor:

- We call into question the trial venue, jury pool and verdict which appears to counter plain evidence. We deplore the racism, injustice and violence which have surrounded the verdict, as well as our own attitudes, actions, and silence that have contributed to injustice and racism.

- We mourn with all those who have suffered losses, death, and destruction of their homes and livelihoods. We call for an end to violence as a response to violence.



AP/Wide World Photos
Rodney King (right) makes his first public statement May 1 about rioting in Los Angeles during the previous few days. With King is his attorney, Steve Lerman.

- We condemn the racism, injustice, and violence that is rooted in our own hearts, and in our political, social, and economic structures. We call upon all leaders and members of churches and society to respond with constructive and new ways to challenge and reshape these structures. We call ourselves to deeper conversion of heart in our attitudes and actions that are colored by racism and injustice.

- We commit ourselves to work with community leaders and members

to bring this closer to reality. We pray to the God of life that new understandings, healing and reconciliation will be born from this tragic moment.

The Mercy and Justice Committee of the Sisters of Mercy
EDITORS' NOTE: This letter was sent by Sisters Joanie Bringley, Marie Joseph Crowley, Anne Curtis, Connie Derby, Judith Heberle, Janet Korn, Gratia L'Esperance, Sheila Miller, Carolyn Rosica, Kay Schwenzer, Maureen Servas, Rosemary Sherman and Mary Wintish.