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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.



**BUFFALO BARRICADE** — Buffalo and Erie County law enforcement officers move to stop pro-life activists who crawled under a barricade outside the entrance to the Buffalo Gyn Womenservices clinic April 25. Approximately 80 activists were arrested on the fifth day of Operation Rescue's 'Spring of Life' campaign.

AP/Wide World Photos

## Not all abortion foes join in rescues

**To the editors:**

I don't think Helen Wagner meant what she wrote on May 28 ("Abortion fight needs leaders to act"), that "abortion is but one example of serious sin practically accepted by our clerical shepherds." Because they do not actively participate in Operation Rescue does not mean they condone abortion.

Not long ago I heard a talk given by one of the activists. I can't tell it as eloquently as she but this is the essence of it: There are three ministries — the priestly (prayer), pastoral (caring) and prophetic (getting at the cause). She told a story of a town through which a fast stream flowed and each day there were bodies in that stream. The people gathered at church to pray but did little else about it. Then, wiser heads suggested they try to save some of the people in the river. Some wanted only

to pray but others went to the river and pulled out those they could, clothed, fed and cared for them. The wisest went upstream to determine the cause and to do something about solving the problem.

Our speaker seemed to feel that Operation Rescue is prophetic, but I disagree. What they are doing is pastoral, and it is admirable, but the problem starts *further upstream*, and it think that is where Ms. Wagner will find most of our shepherds and thoughtful lay people. You might even call them "pro-choice" in that they want to help men and women/boys and girls decide whether there should be a pregnancy in the first place. Of course it's not that simple! There are many societal factors involved and space does not permit going into detail.

If the pro-life and pro-choice people will head upstream they will find many areas where they agree and can pull together. All of the time and money they now spend badgering each other can be used for educational purposes, to foster a feeling of self-respect and the desirability of abstinence among our young people, to prod the government — read you and me — into more programs such as Head Start, Job Corps, etc., etc.

Who knows! This could solve the problem that the Earth Summit now "skirts" around. They euphemistically refer to it as "appropriate demographic policies." To us simple folk, they are talking about the **WORLD POPULATION EXPLOSION!!**

Grace B. Carnes  
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Rochester

## President Bush promotes pro-life agenda

**To the editors:**

In the interest of fair play, I would like to correct some things said by Father McBrien in the May 28 *Catholic Courier*.

For one thing, he seems to imply that President Bush supported the candidacy of David Duke for Governor of Louisiana. Nothing could be further from the truth. In both the primary and the general election, Bush attacked the candidacy of Duke and supported his opponents. In the primary, he supported Buddy Roemer, Governor at the time and former Democrat turned Republican. When he did not win in the primary, President Bush came out for the election of the Democratic candidate, who eventually won. He even sent Vice President Dan Quayle down both times to campaign against the racist Duke!

President Bush has been consistently pro-life ever since he joined the Reagan team in 1980. He may have had a different view previous to that, but who can fault him for changing that

opinion when he since has seen the result of over 27 million abortions in the U.S.A. since the Roe V. Wade decision in 1973!

And the president cannot be blamed for following the "big tent" philosophy since his party is already 100 seats behind in the House and is behind 57-43 in the Senate. If he can elect a majority in either or both houses, the leadership is pro-life, and could push that agenda to the floor. Senators Dole, Hatfield and Hatch are all pro-life as is Congressman Henry Hyde in the House — which the GOP has not controlled for 40 years! What I am saying is that the pro-choicers would be greatly in the minority in a Republican Congress, whereas they surely will be in the majority in a Democrat Congress. If the Democrats win Senate seats this year in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and (two in) California, they will have a veto-proof margin in that body, as all its candidates are pro-choice.

The fetal-tissue and other pro-choice

legislation is now being fought out in Congress, and if they have their way, there will be nothing to veto — as both Clinton and Perot are both very pro-choice and have said so on the record; and if Bush were not to be around any longer, they would have a field-day, signing everything into law!

President Bush has been consistent in vetoing all such legislation, and he has also been consistent in nominating to the Supreme Court people who are decidedly pro-life. These are the best, although not the only, reasons to keep the president around for another four year term. Low inflation rate is another.

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**EDITORS' NOTE:** In the column in question, Father McBrien's likened President Bush's stand on abortion to the hypothetical case of an individual claiming to support racial justice while supporting Duke.