

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**  
**Aris Economopoulos**

**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.

**All Christians participate in ministry**

To the editors:

Henri Nouwen, writing in *Creative Ministry*, remarks that "every Christian is a minister." Accordingly, the Eucharistic Prayer includes, along with a petition for the clergy, an intention for "all who live in ministry," reflecting the varieties of ministerial service in the present church. However, anyone reading the April 23 lead article "Too much from too few: Church ministry and stress," might conclude that "full-time ministry in the Catholic Church" refers entirely to clergymen and members of religious communities, since only in the article's final words is any reference made to other forms of full-time ministry, namely "married deacons and lay ministers." As a woman currently called to and serving in parish ministry, whose responsibilities also include those listed in the second paragraph, "... funerals, weddings, daily Masses, hospital calls, teaching, meeting with parish staff members, administrative duties, counseling ..." and many more, I note with sadness such a curious oversight in the light of the *Courier's* usual accuracy and fairly extensive coverage of the contemporary Church.

Permit me to voice, in a spirit of respectful openness and not of criticism, the observation that the continuing perception of ministry as the sole province of "priests and religious" may be one reason both for their exhaustion and the paucity of vocations to parish work, as well as a good reason that many of us "others" become deeply disheartened and de-energized in our own callings. If ministry must conform to conventionally defined ways of life, many will not see themselves as possibly able to serve God unless they pursue priesthood or community life, as if these are the only significant choices.

If Vatican Council II's great teaching



The late Monsignor Richard K. Burns washes the feet of parishioners at Holy Cross Parish in Rochester on Holy Thursday in 1987.

that "every one of God's people is called to the holiness of Christ" is still valid, and if the Church that was founded by the One who simply asked His followers to wash one another's feet is really a living organism rather than simply another organization, then ministry can really be wonderfully opened to recognize, received, and affirm the precious gifts of all, including those of our parish community members of all ages and abilities. To the extent that the essential baptismal call and charisms of many of us continue to be ignored, overlooked, or suppressed, to that extent will vital Church ministry continue to suffer, being less a reflection of a loving God than a mirror of that very disease and divided-

ness which we are called to make whole.

Judith E. Kiehl  
Pastoral Assistant  
St. Stephen's Church  
Geneva

EDITORS' NOTE: It is impossible for a single article to address every facet of an issue. The article in question was intended to consider only the stresses confronted by priests and religious. Thus, the reference to deacons and lay ministers was simply an acknowledgement that these full- and part-time ministers also deal with tension. Numerous *Courier* articles over the past few years have addressed the contributions and sacrifices made by professional and volunteer lay ministers.



**United Way donors chided for 'act of Christian treason'**

To the editors:

After reading the article "Economy, boycott take toll on United Way campaign" (*Catholic Courier*, May 21), I am prompted to write a response to those diocesan employees who found it necessary to contribute to the United Way campaign and ignore the pro-life boycott. It was an act of Christian treason and one more hideous victory for the pro-abortion forces in this area. You did in effect willfully contribute to the murder of more innocent pre-born babies. Your monies did these awful deeds. I hope your conscience pays the price.

A quote from Francis Schaffer, a pro-life member, says it all: "Every abor-

tion clinic should have a sign over the door that says — 'Open by Permission of the Churches in This Area.'"

God forgive us all especially those whose actions help to promote the wanton slaughter of the unborn.

Maureen Harley-Perez  
Cedar Terrace  
Hilton

EDITORS' NOTE: We should note that the article in question only reported how many diocesan employees made pledges — of any kind — to the United Way. No figures were available on how many of those employees restricted their contributions, either to exclude Planned Parenthood or to earmark funds for specific agencies.

**Judicial system enables abortion**

To the editors:

Civilized societies and their citizens have always called killing other humans pagan, especially for entertainment or for a rite. The gladiators, religious heretics — the accused — witches, slaves, gays have all been victims to make society better.

Heretofore a particular act will become illegal but the killer cycle of lethal dominance stays active by judicial enabling. Killing humans is made legally acceptable; judicial enabling wins. Lethal dominance is in demand; seldom is there not an audience for a public execution "to make society better."

For making society better innocent lives should not be made to suffer. Pro-life, unlike abortion, isn't kept legal by the judiciary. Lethal dominance isn't an achievement for culture.

Joseph Blanda  
Rutgers Street  
Rochester

**Planning was needed to save Catholic schools**

To the editors:

William T. Hammill's sharp blast at Bishop Clark (*Catholic Courier*, May 7: "Bishop's actions raise doubts about synod") is a wry tribute to the bishop's tolerance in permitting such letters to be printed in the diocesan newspaper, of which the bishop is the publisher. In the good old days — and I worked at the *Courier* — such an impolite critique of the bishop would have been read, crumpled up and tossed into the circular file.

To comment on one aspect of his let-

ter regarding Catholic school consolidation. There were two possibilities: develop a careful plan to keep as many schools as possible in operation, or just to have no plan at all. If nature took its course, schools in the less-affluent parishes would die on the vine one by one; schools in the affluent parishes would survive into the indefinite future. Bishop Clark chose to encourage a plan. I think it was the wiser choice.

Father Robert Kanka  
Church of St. James the Apostle  
Trumansburg