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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.

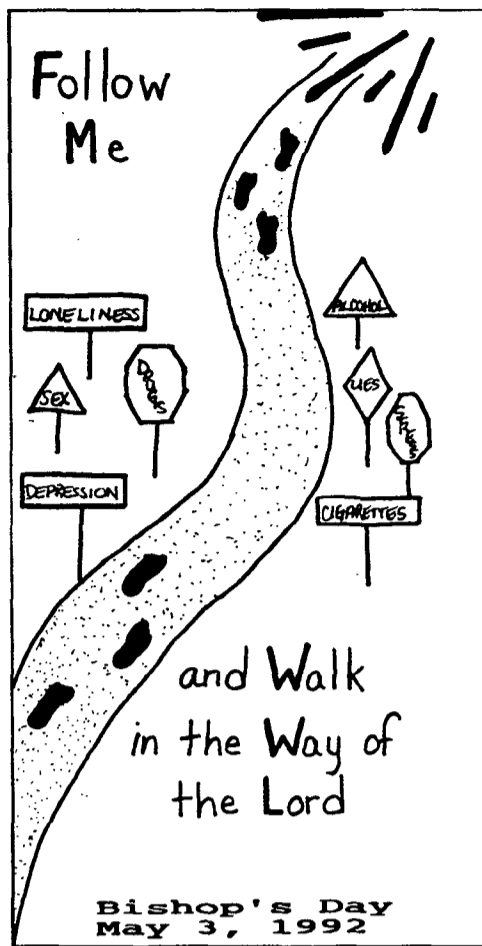
Bishop's Day showed youths do care

To the editors:

On May 1, a relatively small number of youth participated in a mini-riot which terrorized the downtown (Rochester) area. Media coverage was extensive, and the reaction was strong from police, community leaders, and the general public.

Two days later, over 800 high school students converged in the exact same area. The daylong annual Bishop's Day with Youth was held at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. These youth participated in a daylong event which included workshops, a play and discussion with Bishop Clark, presentation of Hands of Christ awards and Mass. But this time, media coverage was nonexistent. Even the *Courier* article in the May 7 edition concentrated almost solely on the play and discussion.

These are busy times for all of us, and certainly no less so for our youth. Between school activities and jobs, one would think that it would be difficult to get many teens to give up an entire day for a religion-oriented event. Yet 800 of them, many of whom came from the far reaches of our diocese, did just



Bishop's Day
May 3, 1992

that.

At the gathering, over 125 high school seniors received the Hands of Christ award recognition for their exemplary Christian behavior to others.

It is important that these teens and this event be recognized.

As a volunteer youth minister at St. Joseph's in Rush, I have worked quite closely with the Diocesan youth ministry staff: Pat Fox, Anne Paluskiewicz and Laurie Orman. It has recently been announced that budget constraints have forced the elimination of all three of their positions.

I pray that this is not an indication of the relative importance which will be placed by the Diocese of Rochester on our youth in the future. I further pray that this ninth-annual Bishop's Day with Youth will not have been the last. The youth of our parishes, the Church of the future, does wonderful things, and should be recognized for their goodness. We hear more than enough about the bad.

Keith C. Bock
Bean Hill Road
Honeoye Falls

Including Planned Parenthood betrays truth

To the editors:

In the May 28th *Catholic Courier*, included under the article that discussed crisis and problem pregnancy centers, there was a listing of ten agencies that offer "abortion alternatives for pregnant women." The last listing on the page was Planned Parenthood of Rochester! How in the name of all that is good and true can we list in a Catholic publication an organization that is in the process of building an abortuary to kill the little "problems" (i.e. BABIES) women are pregnant with?

As a matter of faith we believe that human life is sacred - made in the image of God. We know it is our Christian duty to protect all life, especially the lives of those who are most vulnerable and most innocent. How is it then that we, the *Catholic Courier*, can give referral information - free advertisement so-to-speak - to an agency that has stated publicly it's desire to seek out and kill the most vulnerable and the most innocent members of our human family?

When I called to voice my sorrow

about this inclusion, I was told that PP's abortion "services" weren't being advocated, rather another of it's programs! Supposedly this made the inclusion of PP on the list O.K. To establish the false logic that this uses, allow me to make the following comparison.

In the 1930's and 1940's in the hospitals within the concentration camps in Germany, there was extensive medical research being done. New meds were tested, new vaccines also. Tissue and organ transplant work flourished. Wonderful work, right? Should this period in German history be therefore called the golden age of medicine, or should we continue to call it the HOLOCAUST??? Looking back we remember only a barbarous regime that regarded humans as materials to be used and disposed of at will.

In the 1980's and 1990's, we have among us an agency that seeks to help women plan their barrenhood. To achieve this end, the prime package it deals out is contraception. If contraception fails, they will gladly offer an abortion. If by chance someone wishes

to allow the birth of their child, they do offer this parenting program where women are strongly urged to contracept. And the circle of evil starts again! Do we laud this agency's parenting program, or do we realize that once again innocent human life is being looked upon as mere nothingness to be disposed of at will? And then do we call it the HOLOCAUST it is!?

Though some may not want to hear about the teachings of Christ's Church on the sacredness of human life, the illegitimacy of contraception, and the primacy of the family, the domestic Church, you owe it to your readers to present the Truth! This is your prime reason for being a Catholic publication. It is difficult to go against the secular current and more difficult yet to "admonish sinners" as the works of mercy call all of us to do. But, we must! It's easy to list Planned Parenthood. It's just not right, not merciful, and not Truth!!!

Barbara A. Fredericks, M.D.
Birr Street
Rochester

Agency's monies pay for abortions in spite of denials

To the editors:

United Way claims none of the money they receive and contribute to Planned Parenthood is going for abortion, but the money they contribute to Planned Parenthood's other services all goes into one pot and free's money for abortion.

Even those who think abortion should be legal may not want their money to go to United Way if personally they don't support abortion.

If United Way wants to support rape counselling and other good services they should contribute to other agencies.

John Nawrocki
Avenue C
Rochester



Father Louis Vasile

Parishioner bids farewell to pastor

To the editors:

The people of Cluster Parish, St. Anne's, Palmyra, and St. Gregory's, Marion, will bid Father Louis Vasile farewell June 30.

It was our good fortune the Bishop chose Father Lou to be our shepherd these past six years.

Many have known his dedication as our Cluster Parish priest these past six years. He certainly has been a ray of sunshine in our midst. May his new parishioners at St. Gabriel's, Hammondsport, welcome him warmly with open arms.

We shall miss you, Father Lou. May God Bless you and hold you in the palm of His hand until we meet again.

Rena B. Camblin
Meadow Drive
Palmyra