

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
Aris Economopoulos

Business Department

Circulation Manager
Jeanne A. Morin

Office Manager
Amy D'Accursio

Advertising Department

Advertising Manager
Bernie Puglisi

Advertising Account Exec.
Kathy Welsh

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.

Missionary grateful for paper's aid

To the editor:
MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU HIS PEACE!!!

What a beautiful thing you did for me and my people in Peru! (See *Catholic Courier*, May 14: "Priest hikes 600 miles to help Peru missions"). Obviously, you know the importance of good media.

I wonder if you know just how far your newspaper goes, and who reads it? Along with many others, I've received letters and donations from non-Catholics who read your paper. You did so much for me — thank you.

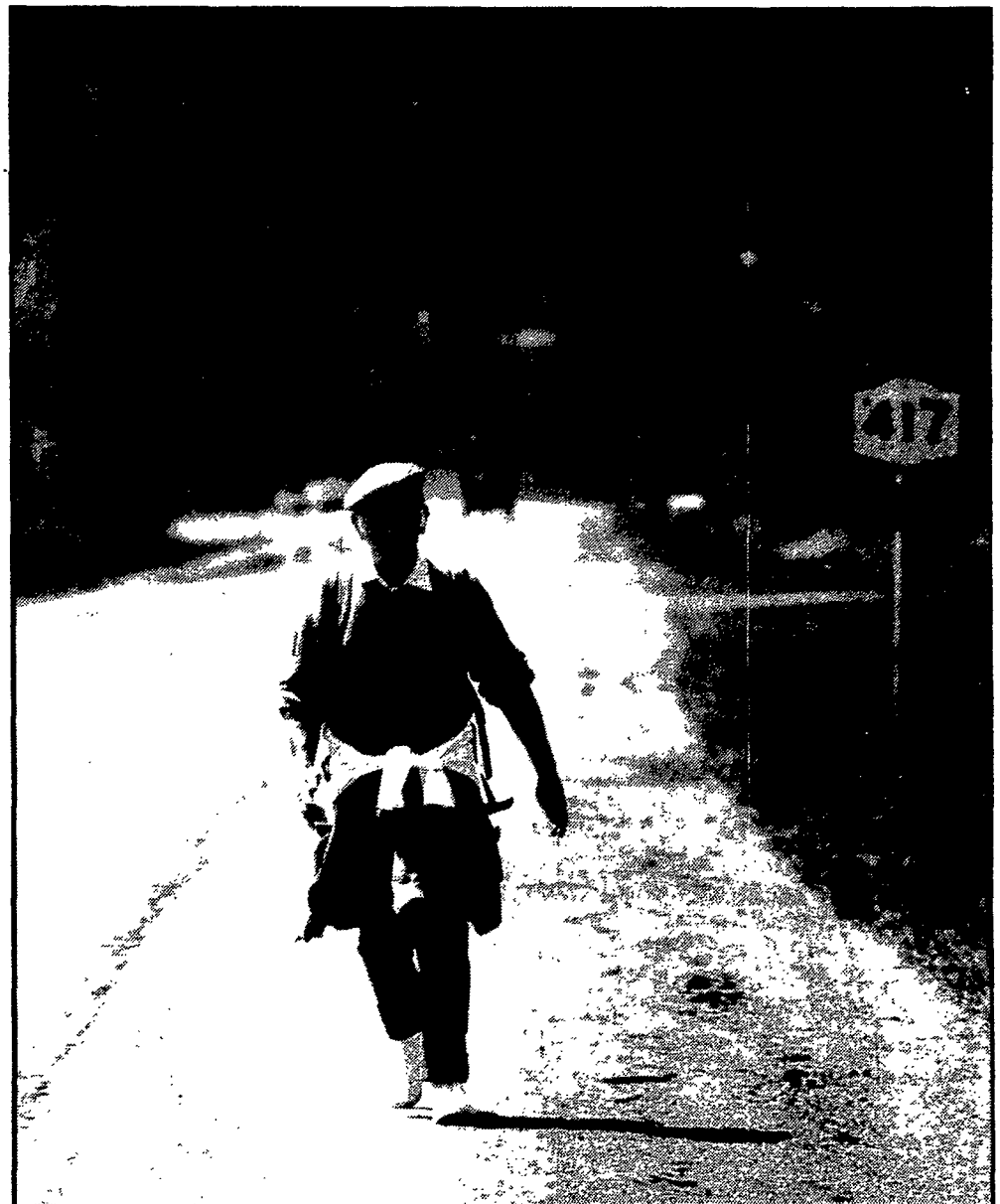
My WALK OF 600 MILES FOR PERU finished on Friday, May 29th. I could write a book on my experiences, all the beautiful people I met on the way, the beautiful weather, beautiful scenery of Western New York State, and all the outpourings of love, concern and economic help that I received.

We can consider the walk successful in that we have received so far almost \$40,000, which I will put to proper use very shortly. Among other needs, this money will be used for food and clothing for my people in the mountains in Peru.

I also plan on using a good deal of it to put hundreds of children back in school. Only 40 percent of the children registered for school this year — their parents just couldn't afford to send them. So now we can help many in that area.

I suppose the walk could be considered successful in other ways: creating more awareness of the plight of Peru's poor and the difficult days due to terrorism. And who knows? So much can come out of human interest stories, short-term and long term-wise.

Not only do I wish to thank you for all your news coverage and making it possible for me to get to so many people, I also want you to know that a newspaper like yours makes us believe again in the ethics of good journalism.



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Father William Brown, OFM, set out April 29 on the first leg of a 600-mile fundraising trek from his hometown of Wellsville across New York state.

You make us proud of our Catholic newspaper, and we are grateful to you for helping us. The only way we can thank you is to try to do a bigger and better job in our missionary work.

With much love and gratitude,
Father Bill Brown, OFM
Maple Avenue
Wellsville



AP/Wide World Photos

On June 12, the Rev. April Ulling Larson became the Lutheran Church's first woman bishop in the United States.

Women should rejoice in difference

To the editor:

To those women expressing anguish over being denied the deaconate and priesthood on May 30 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, I urge that they quietly, calmly, meditate on the words of Solomon in the Old Testament. Wisdom is consistently "She" and in this musical interpretation, a legacy bequeathed by the Order of St. Ursula, founded by St. Angela Merici, states:

"Wisdom has built herself a house, and hewn out seven pillars fair.

She sends her invitation out to ... and city wall and calls aloud

"Come Eat My Bread; My wine is

poured; My table spread;" and calls aloud, and calls aloud.

Too many sincere women have been influenced by well-meaning males to deny their essence of "mothering." They have this need, whether to be fulfilled in physical and/or spiritual motherhood; to be exercised at home or career; to be lived out in the single, married, or religious state, as amateur or professional.

Read and absorb "Wisdom" and rejoice!

Marie Jesmer
Wyndale Road
Rochester

Catholics have right to spiritual attention

To the editor:

In his campaign for U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, Harris Wofford said, "If criminals have a right to a lawyer, I think working Americans have a right to a doctor."

I would carry "right" a step further and say, "Every Catholic has a right to spiritual care from a priest and access to the sacraments."

Protestant denominations demonstrate that it takes only a congregation of 100 to support a small church and a pastor. In fact, Dr. Peter Wagner of Fuller Theological Seminary says that about half of U.S. Protestant churches have 75 or fewer in attendance.

The typical American Catholic priest must serve at least 10 times as many. Obviously, the same individual attention cannot be provided. Catholic pastors do not always recognize by name every member of their flock.

Many are not satisfied with the impersonal spiritual care now available. Hispanics, in particular, are leaving the church in droves because they find their needs better attended in the sects.

There are those who think the status quo can be kept by not opening the priesthood to women and married men. The Catholic Church is changing rapidly in spite of these naysayers.

If religious and priests continue to decline in numbers, we will eventually have a church in lay hands.

George M. Korb
East Avenue, Rochester