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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.



File photo

In this photo from May of 1985, Bishop Matthew H. Clark distributes Communion during the Baccalaureate Ceremony at Nazareth College of Rochester.

## Graduates need blessings of God

To the editors:

What has become of our "One Nation Under God?"

On June 27th, I attended the graduation ceremony at Horseheads High School. The Principal, Jack Kent, announced, due to the recent Supreme Court ruling, there would be no Benediction, which was listed in the program. A loud "BOO" could be heard in the crowd.

The word benediction, according to the Webster Dictionary is, 1. A bless-

ing; 2. Invocation of a blessing. The word invocation is, 1. the calling on God for blessing, help, etc.

Now, if we are truly a Nation under God, why is it we are not allowed to call upon God for help and his blessing, especially for our youth, who will become the future of our nation?

How ironic, on that graduation day, as I was silently praying for God's blessing to be given to all of the 1992 graduates, a heavy sprinkling of water came upon each of them, just as they

received their diplomas.

Could it be that God knew how much each of them needs his blessing, especially in a nation where the Supreme Court is taking over the supremacy of God?

May we all join in prayer for each other, so that God will bless this nation, and we all may truly live in "One Nation under God!!!"

Joan Cushing  
Box 163  
Big Flats

## Suggests readings to prepare for Synod

To the editor:

The people in the pews of this diocese have within their resources the power to make the forthcoming Synod meetings into a mighty witness to their commitment to the church.

By going to their public and local college libraries, by placing orders through their secular and religious bookstores, it will be possible for members of the diocese to delve into the following recommended books:

The Bible;

The Vatican II documents, especially the "Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation," the "Dogmatic Constitution on the Church," the "Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World;"

"Agenda for the '90s," U.S. Catholic Conference;

*How to Read a Book*, Mortimer J. Adler;

*Leisure: The Basis of Culture*, Josef Pieper;

*Leadership*, James M. Burns;

*The Lifetime Reading Plan*, Clifton Fadiman;

*Contemporary Theologians*, James Back;

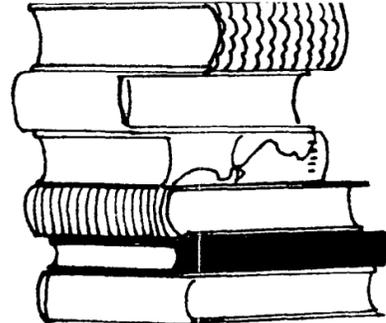
*An Introduction to Poetry*, X. J. Kennedy;

*Opening to God*, Thomas Green;

*The Art of Loving*, Erich Fromm;

*Political Meaning of Christianity*, Glenn Tinder;

*Lift Your Sails*, Vincent Dwyer; and  
*Life and Holiness*, Thomas Merton.



(I hope) the above reading materials can be obtained and digested before the Synod convenes.

Tom Fogarty  
Walnut Street  
Auburn

## Catholics must oppose 'violation of Christian morality'

To the editors:

The recent (court) ruling that women may go topless in public ought concern all Catholics, particularly priests and bishops whose duty it is to lead all Catholics in achieving holiness.

Some of the principles of Catholic moral teaching applicable to this issue are as follows: One must avoid the proximate occasion of sin, i.e. that in which a great danger of sin is connected unless the occasion is necessary, i.e. it would be physically or morally impossible to avoid without great dan-

ger to life, health or reputation.

It would seem likely that being in the presence of semi-nude women would be for many a near occasion of serious sin. Those who would consider such conduct themselves would be guilty of seduction.

He who induces another to sin by her conduct is guilty of the sin caused by the other. Lust being the probable result of these actions, grave sin is likely to occur.

The absurdity and magnitude of this violation of Christian morality is diffi-

cult to exaggerate.

Will we hear from the Christian community, exhorted by her Catholic bishops, priests and Protestant pastors that Christians will not ignore such a blatant violation of the natural rights of persons in civil society?

When will the Church fulfill her mandate to be salt and light in the midst of misguided civil leadership and citizen acquiescence?

Helen Ann Wagner  
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