

# CATHOLIC COURIER

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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.

## Opinion



File photo hand-colored by Babette G. Augustin

## 'Diversity' should include Latin Mass

### To the editors:

I am writing this letter to express myself on the issue of Bishop Clark's refusal to allow the Traditional Latin Mass in the Rochester Diocese.

Over the Fourth of July weekend I attended a Traditional Latin Mass in Manhattan. The Old Mass in Latin is one of nine Sunday Masses said at the Church of St. Agnes on E. 43rd Street, which is a short walk from Grand Central Station. The Church of St. Agnes is home to a beautiful devotional parish family, with a true "Vatican II" ministerial outreach to the urban poor.

The people in attendance at the Latin Mass were all of ages, races and colors. It was a true representation of the members of Christ's Church, it was a microcosm of the universal Church in a city that is a microcosm of the world.

Today I am back in Rochester, not exactly a backwater, where we have prestigious universities and colleges, a lively and talented arts community, a renowned orchestra and school of music, but where I cannot find a "Tridentine" Rite Mass. I am being denied legitimate access to my Catholic cultural heritage, even though H.H. Pope John Paul II requested that "respect must everywhere be shown for the feelings of all those attached to the Latin liturgical tradition."

The irony of it all is that this denial comes from our Ordinary who himself said in his 1990 address before a symposium in Arlington, Virginia entitled, "The Wisdom of Women," that the "church is most alive when she is expansive and inclusive," when she "finds room for all manner of diversity, disallowing only those points of

view or directions which deny the central mysteries of our faith."

We who want the Traditional Latin Mass are not reactionaries longing for some bygone era, but rather young "post-conciliar" persons — female and male — who long for the spirituality of the ancient Rite, and the cultural richness that accompanies it. It is difficult enough raising a family in today's society; so Bishop Clark, please allow us to expose our children to our Catholic culture in all of its richness and diversity. Let it not be said to our offspring when they venture off into the post-Christian world that they come from a liturgical wasteland.

Joseph G. Morgan  
Park Avenue  
Rochester

## Budget cutbacks dashed ministries

### To the editors:

I read with interest your recent article about reductions in diocesan programs. I believe people should be aware that not only have the budget cuts affected the Headquarters operations at Buffalo Road, but they have cut into the very sinew of line programs in the Finger Lake Region.

Due to reductions in the Thanksgiving Appeal, the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry has been forced to eliminate its Migrant Ministry program and drastically reduce its Separated-Bereaved-Divorced programs. The Migrant Ministry worked to develop parish outreach programs to migrant workers in the regions, and was just ready to expand. Over the past 10 years the Separated-Divorced-Bereaved program has grown so that

## Catholic Thanks Giving Appeal

# 1992

## DIocese OF ROCHESTER

today it meets the needs of over 1,500 people in the five counties this office serves. Both were ecumenical programs.

Unfortunately these programs have to depend on diocesan funding, such as the Thanks Giving Appeal. It is almost impossible to find other public or private funding sources for programs such as these.

Paul Wenderlich, vice president  
Board of Directors  
Finger Lakes Office  
of Social Ministry

## Nation is sinking into a 'deep sea'

### To the editors:

With the permission of my Pastor, Father Robert C. Bradler I spoke representing a group on June 9th, Tuesday evening to the Monroe County Legislators conveying a Message on Life.

At this point in time what is needed is not numbers but quality. We must care about children and families or otherwise we have squandered our gifts from God which is causing so much chaos and confusion. Now there is hardly any respect left for anyone.

When we make correct decisions, nations prosper. When we make incorrect decisions and do not take time to get them corrected, we are sinking like in a deep sea.

Bernice Kleinhammer  
Laurelton Road  
Rochester