

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

Business Department

Circulation Manager
Jeanne A. Morin

Office Manager
Amy D'Accursio

Receptionist
Lenna Hurley

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.

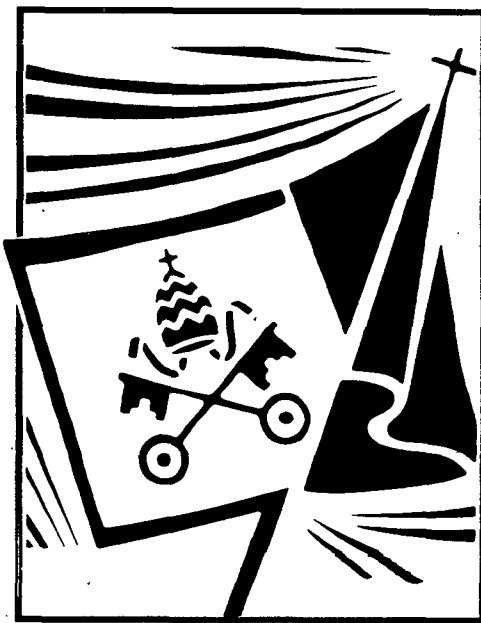
Columnist is 'master of obfuscation'

To the editors:

Richard McBrien's column "Roman Catholic or just 'Catholic'?" again reveals the Notre Dame theologian to be a master of obfuscation, "double speak," and false ecumenism. To his mind, it "seems contradictory to call the church 'Catholic' and 'Roman' at one and the same time. The one word denotes universality, the other particularity."

He is correct in noting that the word "Catholic" refers to "universality" — and so Eastern rite Catholics are also entitled to bear that proud title. He forgets, however, that the adjective "Roman" signifies more than "particularity;" it has served throughout the history of the Church to distinguish the true or real Catholics from the adherents of false or heretical sects or groupings that would foolishly lay claim to the glorious title Catholic, which itself serves as a visible mark of the true Church ...

... In our own time, Vatican II has referred repeatedly to the "one and only" visible Church of Jesus Christ. That Church it further identifies as the Catholic Church, i.e., the Church which is in communion with the See of Peter. Thus Vatican II has reinforced ancient Catholic teaching that no one can be termed Catholic without being



in full communion with the center of Catholic unity, the See of Rome.

In this context, it is actually redundant to use the term "Roman Catholic;" for "Catholic" and "Roman Catholic" mean the same thing ...

... Thus, in no way can the term "Roman Catholic" be twisted to mean that there can be Anglican Catholics or Greek Catholics or Protestant Catholics who are not in communion with the Pope. This is the kind of false ecumenism that stems from both bad

grammar and bad theology.

Father McBrien also forgets, by the way, that the adjective "Roman" — understood in its true sense — is part of the official title of the Catholic Church is formulated by the dogmatic Councils of Trent and Vatican I. As for his usual attempt to minimize the authority of the Pope as Vicar of Christ by referring to him merely as "Vicar of Peter," he should re-read the decrees of the ecumenical Councils of Florence, Trent and Vatican II, all of which highlight the role of the Successor of Peter as "Vicar of Christ." See, for example, *Lumen Gentium*, 25)...

... Moreover, it is not true, as Father McBrien alleges, that the "authority of the Pope ... became the source of contention between West and East in the 11th Century." As the new and expanded edition of my book *Ending the Byzantine Greek Schism* (available from CUF, 50 Washington Ave., New Rochelle, NY 10801 — \$16.95 postpaid) shows, the Petrine Primacy of universal jurisdiction was formally denied by certain Byzantine theologians only later in the 12th century.

James Likoudis, President
Catholics United for the Faith
New Rochelle, N.Y.

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter has been edited to comply with space limitations.

Bishop might offer answers along the way

To the editors:

A comment about Bishop Clark's column, "Along The Way." I find his articles very homey and entertaining. To name a few: Slow your pace in the summer. Most people love photographs, and a Trip to Notre Dame.

I wonder, however, if we could see some guidance in his column or at least some answers to some of the following perplexing questions of a Catholic layman?

1. How can a nun from the Rochester Diocese work in the office of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter who is strongly pro choice and a prime mover in the proposed Freedom of Choice Act? Is the Diocese of Rochester only lukewarm in our Pro Life stand?

2. In light of the 1917 Code of Canon Law which prohibited girl altar servers which was restated by the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship in 1970 (*Liturgies Instaurationes*). Why do some parishes in our Diocese have altar girls? Is the Pope truly the Mystical head of the Church on earth or is He only a figure head?

3. What is the position of the Diocese of Rochester in regard to Cardinal Ratzinger's letter "to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on Some Aspects of the Church Understood as Communion" which was approved by the Pope and released June 15th? What is the relationship of the Diocese of Rochester with the Vatican? Are we in communion with the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith or are we going our own way?

I feel it would be very helpful for the Catholic layperson to see some answers or at least explanations and or guidance to some of these questions in "Along The Way."

Clayton J. Protest
Dunmow Crescent
Fairport



This depiction of confirmation is a miniature in the *Pontifical of Jean Barton*, a 15th-century French manuscript.

Without bishop, sacrament won't retain its excitement

To the editors:

I was at Babcock-Hovey Scout Camp last week so my reading of the *Courier* is delayed. However it confirmed what I had already suspected — there was an announcement in our weekly bulletin that someone other than Bishop Clark, Hickey or Hogan was scheduled to do our Confirmation this year. (See *Catholic Courier*, July 23: "Bishop Clark appoints priests to administer confirmation").

So now we have come to this — how sad. I can remember what an exciting time it was when "the Bishop" (Kearney) was coming to do confirmation in my old parish of St. Francis Xavier on Bay St. Monsignor Moffat and the Sisters were visibly at a heightened level of energy getting things ready so they would be just so for "the Bishop." He was coming you know and it was a special time.

Could it be we are short changing our youth? Eleventh graders are already skeptical of "this religion my parents make me practice." What kind of a message or signal are we sending them — that this special event is not important enough to warrant sending a Bishop out? When do we at St. Michael's in Newark get to see the Shepherd of our diocese? If not for

confirmation when would he come? Don't you understand we need to see the mitre and the staff — both powerful symbols that someone important who looks and dresses like the Pope in Rome is not too far from us.

I admit to greed — forgive me. I even feel cheated as a parish when (Bishops) Hickey or Hogan come out and not Matthew himself. But they are bishops and the mitre and staff is visible. This proposed thing is unacceptable. Nothing personal against these other three priests — all fine fellows I'm sure — but they ain't bishops.

Bishop Hogan deserves his retirement and if he wants to forgo the confirmations — that's fine. If we need another auxiliary bishop — let's appoint or get one. If (Bishops) Clark and Hickey are so overworked they can't keep up with the schedule — drop something else — but gentlemen, please, only a bishop should do confirmation.

It's a special time, confirmation. The children must be prepared, the parish must get ready, the level of excitement goes up — after all — the Bishop is coming!

Bill Fyles
Lyon Road
Marion