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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 and complete address for verification purposes.



Thousands of demonstrators lined Rochester's East Avenue during the Life Chain conducted on Oct. 6, 1991.

Pro-life activists haven't given up abortion battle

To the editors:

Professor Charles Rice is correct stating euthanasia is rapidly growing (*Catholic Courier*, Oct. 15: "Law professor warns of growing euthanasia").

I disagree with his "Right-to-Life" movement gave up on the objective of fighting abortion. They gave up on establishing the personhood of the unborn person."

Two weeks ago our Respect Life Committee from Cluster Parish St. Anne's, Palmyra/St. Gregory's, Marion joined "Life Chain" in Geneva. We held signs that read "Abortion kills children," as did others across the nation.

Our treasury is meager, yet we manage to alternate between Palmyra Crisis Pregnancy Center and Faithaven with a donation monthly. Their goal — counseling those contemplating abortion — not to, offering alternatives.

Jan. 21st each year we travel all night on a bus headed for Washington, D.C. to protest *Roe vs. Wade* and vie for it's being overturned. People of all denominations from all states join the "March for Life" up Constitution Avenue — past the White House and Supreme Court Building. Some carry signs that convey the message, how gruesome and painful abortion is. This is a tremendous effort to spread the message — all life is sacred from womb to the tomb.

Oct. 1991 at Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry in Geneva, there was a "Reverencing Life-Legislative Workshop." Speakers were Maureen Dowling for National Life Committee for Human Life Amendment and Assemblyman Frank Talomie.

Good Friday — a prayer service in Reparation for Abortion is held in a Catholic Church in Rochester. The priest's talk — on abortion and its evils. Following the service we make the Stations of the Cross in front of a hospital that performs abortions.

Dec. 28th Holy Innocents Day, our group join others for Mass at a Catholic Church in Rochester. After the Mass we protest with signs outside an abortion clinic.

We participated in Operation Rescue-Spring of Life in Buffalo this year. We arrived in Amherst, it had been decided there would be 2 days of prayer. Other groups were still active at the abortion clinics — sidewalk counseling those contemplating abortion there were other alternatives. A mother called us in Amherst to thank us for our prayers. Her daughter had decided against abortion. A life saved.

All of those listed I consider endeavors Right-to-Life Movement "fighting abortion and establishing the personhood of the unborn person."

Consider Fulton J. Sheen's Prayer — "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much, I beg you to spare the life of preborn child that I have spiritually adopted who is endangered of abortion."

Rena B. Camblin
1878 Meadow Dr.
Palmyra, NY 14522

Reader will provide cards for petitioning

To the editors:

Perhaps some of your readers have seen a petition card to Governor Cuomo asking him to make parental notification in the case of a minor's procreation a law in New York State. This means that parents of pregnant, unmarried, minor girls would have to be notified that their daughter is seeking an abortion.

I received the card in a neighboring church a few weeks ago and believe that if enough cards are sent to the Governor, perhaps he might provide the leadership to make this notification a law.

If anyone wishes to send a card to Governor Cuomo, I will provide them with a pre-stamped card to send. Perhaps thousands of lives of pre-born infants might be saved. Perhaps only hundreds. But if only one life is saved because of this legislation, I feel it would be worth the time and cost involved.

Please send me a note at RD 8, Canandaigua, and I will provide you with as many cards as you wish.

Anne C. Erdle
Parrish Extension
Canandaigua

Quiz members who leave parish

To the editors:

I was both inspired and encouraged by Bishop Clark's "How would you improve communications?" article in (the Oct. 15) *Catholic Courier*, for I believe that when we are open to the truth at all levels, then and only then can we communicate to such depths as to reach a mutual understanding and therefore a mutually beneficial relationship.

My suggestion to improve communication within our entire faith community is to include in all our procedures that which encourages revealing and dealing with the truth. A simple but extremely effective tool would be to develop a written questionnaire for those who leave a congregation, one copy for the church and one to be sent directly to Bishop's office.

Laura Sue McCormick
Cedar Street
Scottsville

Both sides must address complex abortion questions

To the editors:

Because of the mind-boggling moral and social considerations of abortion, I've never quite been able to reach a firm opinion on this issue.

If one believes that human life begins at conception and that abortion is equivalent to murder, it is understandable why many people oppose abortion's legalization. On the other hand, if one can make distinctions between the stages of fetal life and if one believes that each woman has the right to decide whether and when to have children, it is equally understandable why others favor abortion.

Abortion is a complex issue, as evidenced by the inconsistent philosophies of some on either side.

For instance, many of those who op-

pose Medicaid coverage for abortions are also opposed to upgrading welfare benefits which would better enable a mother to raise her child.

And many abortion advocates are absolutely opposed to executing even the most dangerous murderers, on the basis that society has no right to terminate any life.

Nine years ago I observed a gathering of people outside Seneca Army Depot. There was a demonstration against unnecessary proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Bishop Matthew Clark addressed the gathering. When he finished, many of the listeners, particularly those in the women's rights movement, could not decide whether to applaud. They agreed with the Bishop's condemna-

tion of warfare, wife battering and capital punishment but were appalled by the Bishop's condemnation of abortion.

A pregnant woman can consider adoption as an alternative. I know some fine people who were adopted as infants. But is adoption always feasible? There is a demand for healthy, white infants by adoptive parents but no such demand for non-Caucasian infants or infants likely to have health problems. Does society have the right to demand that a HIV-positive woman continue her pregnancy?

As the raging controversy continues, complicated and disturbing questions need to be addressed by all sides.

Joel Freedman
North Main Street, Canandaigua