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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.

**Courier article offered balanced view**

To the editors:

It was with great interest that I read Lee Strong's article "The Many Images of Columbus" (*Catholic Courier*, Oct. 1). I agreed with what was stated regarding Columbus' achievements, his motivations, and the results of his "discovery." He was indeed a multifaceted character, who had a tremendous impact on world history.

Mr. Strong's article was more balanced on this topic than most articles appearing in Catholic sources that I have read. These latter articles portray Columbus' discovery in defensive tones, using the spread of Catholicism through the New World as a benefit that somehow justifies the subsequent atrocities that were inflicted on the native peoples. In so doing, this Euro-American Christian perspective ignores the suffering and discrimination that occurred 500 years ago and continues today.

I feel that for a truly balanced perspective on Columbus, the views of Native Americans should be given equal attention. Haven't our Bishops encouraged us to view social issues from the perspective of the powerless and disadvantaged and then to preferentially select that solution or viewpoint which benefits these marginalized people the most?

A diocesan task force on racism (see *Catholic Courier*, Oct. 15: "Task force calls



on church to root out racism") cited as an example of church racism "insensitivity and ignorance of cultures, histories and experiences of other races in the church and society." I think this statement is clearly applicable to the possibly unintentional, though none the less prevalent, Catholic-media perspective of the "Columbus issue."

I look forward to a complementary article that presents this issue from the Native American viewpoint and suggest ways we, as a Church, can help to heal the wounds that exist in our society as a result of European migration to the Western Hemisphere.

**William Coon**  
Curry Road, Trumansburg

**Plan concerns school parents at 22 parishes**

To the editors:

I would like to clarify a possible misunderstanding which may come about as a result of the October 15 article, "Southeast Quad to survey parents." The article gives the impression that it was basically only the parents at Seton Catholic and St. Joseph's Penfield, who responded to the one-site proposal. While this may be true of any written responses, it does not reflect the Quadrant-wide opposition to the proposal.

On September 2, a meeting was held for the parents to review the proposal. Because of the failure of the Diocese to send timely notice of the meeting to Quadrant parents — many actually received the notice in the mail several days later — only a few schools were represented, but the opposition to the proposal was clear. However, at the September 10 meeting approximately 60-70 parents, representing virtually every parish in the Quadrant, spoke out in opposition to the current proposal. Consequently, it is clear that this opposition is not concentrated in one or two schools, but pervades the entire Quadrant.

With regard to St. Joseph's Penfield, it should also be noted that the students there represent 22 separate parishes, and the student population comprises almost 25 percent of the entire Quad-



File photo

**Regina Solarek was one of several parents expressing concern about the one-site plan during the Sept. 2 meeting.**

rant enrollment. Therefore, when the parents at St. Joseph's are heard in opposition to the one-site plan, it is not just the voices of the parents who live near the school, but a cry from parents from all over the Quadrant.

In conclusion, it would be more accurate to say that the "vehement opposition" to the proposed one-site plan is being expressed by parents from Webster, Wayne County, Rush, Mendon and all parishes and communities in between, and not just by the parents from two schools.

**Philip L. Burke, President**  
St. Joseph's Education Association  
Belvista Drive, Rochester

**Discussions were open to all parishioners**

To the editors:

This letter is in regard to Lee Strong's article "Geneva team finds words lead to Act-ion" (*Catholic Courier*, Oct. 15).

I would like to correct the impression that our Synod group discussions were for "white parishioners." These discussions were open to all of our parishioners, including those who are bilingual. With the assistance of Sr. Jennie,

our Urban Hispanic Ministry Coordinator, the Hispanic members of our parish participated in neighborhood meetings as this approach seemed to encourage greater participation.

Thank you for your coverage on the Synod process in our parish.

**Rachel Plano, Chairperson**  
St. Francis de Sales Synod Team  
Genesee Street, Geneva

**Answer is clear to CUF president**

To the editors:

The letter of (published) Oct. 8, Walter Ervin Jr. inquired whether "a single female Episcopalian priest converted to Catholicism ... would be allowed to continue in her ministry as a Catholic priest."

The answer, of course, is no, since the Catholic Church does not admit that a woman can receive the holy order of priesthood. This has been clearly stated, and in unequivocal terms, by Popes Paul VI and Pope John Paul II countering the demands of those contemptuous of Catholic tradition in the matter. The Church cannot contradict the will of its Founder, Jesus Christ, who specifically chose only men for this apostolic ministry.

Since the use of Archbishop Cranmer's defective ordinal, both the Church of England and its American Episcopalian offshoot broke with the doctrine of Apostolic Succession as traditionally understood by the Catholic Church. To this day most Episcopalians do not believe what the Catholic Church believes about a sacrificing priesthood, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the mystery of Transubstantiation.

There are a few Anglican or Episcopalian clergy who may have been validly ordained by a Bishop of another Church with valid orders — think of the Old Catholics of Germany or various separated Eastern dissidents. These may indeed be permitted to function as priests decide. However, those ministers lacking valid orders but desirous of experiencing a priestly ministry in the Church, must be ordained by a Catholic Bishop.

In any case, no woman can function as a Catholic priest because Catholic doctrine holds that women cannot receive the holy order of priesthood, and this by the will of Christ Himself. This is not a doctrine the Church can change.

**James Likoudis**