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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.

After vote, U.S. needs God's help

To the editors:

It behooves all Americans to wish Bill Clinton best wishes as he takes control of the government in the weeks and months ahead. He will need the prayers of all of us as well.

It frightens me, however, to believe that he has been elected. Whatever good his administration may do — and please God there will be some good — unless he changes his stance on the abortion issue, this country will not be able to ever get off the now reaccelerated "Life IS Cheap" ride it has been on for the past 20 years.

Just when it appeared the Nation was on the brink of having *Roe vs. Wade* overturned, it goes and elects as President the man who heads the part that embraces abortion and all its trappings. There is only slight comfort in the knowledge that 57 percent of those who voted in the general election did not vote for Bill Clinton. The abortion issue may or may not have been their determining factor. We don't know but the fact remains that he has, indeed, been elected.

Next January, Bill Clinton will take the oath of office and shortly thereafter will hear, for the first time as President of the United States, the stirring "Hail To The Chief" anthem. May I suggest that the Marine Corps Band instead play Irving Berlin's classic — and reworded — "God Help America."

Brendan M. O'Riordan
Aldwick Rise
Fairport



AP/Wide World Photos

CAMPAINING CLINTON — Against a backdrop of international flags, then-candidate Bill Clinton waved to the audience at an Oct. 1 speech.

'Endorsement' was wrong

To the editors:

The issue of the *Catholic Courier* dated October 15, 1992, contained an endorsement of Governor William Clinton by Reverend Richard McBrien.

I find it difficult to understand why the *Courier*, whose task it is to instruct Catholics in matters which touch upon their faith should print Reverend McBrien's comments. His opinions, given prominence in the paper, tend to mislead and confuse the uninformed,

rather than enlighten and instruct them.

It is not, and should not be the role of the *Courier* to contradict orthodox Catholic teaching. The liberal secular news-media are quite ready and eager to provide that "service." Rev. McBrien's positions on religious matters, belong, to me in the secular realm, eager to diminish in American Society the role played by the Catholic Church.

William V. Reynolds, M.D.
Pine Trail, Honeoye Falls



Detail from a cloth painting made by women working with missionaries in Santiago, Chile, shows mothers carrying enlarged photos of their missing children and a banner asking "Where are they?"

Sisters appreciate mission donations

To the editors:

We would like to express once again gratitude to Father Robert Bradler of the Office of the Propagation of the Faith for the office's annual contribution to our missions in South America, and to the generous people of the Rochester diocese who made this contribution possible.

The 14 Sisters of St. Joseph serving in Brazil and the nine Sisters of Mercy serving in Chile, as well as the two Congregations as a whole, know that their continued presence and ministry among

the wonderful people of those two countries is an overflow of the caring, prayer, and sacrifice of the wonderful people here in this country.

Please know that all of those who help us to minister with and among our brothers and sisters in South America are also included in our prayer and in their prayer.

Sister Rosemary St. Peter, SSJ,
and Sister Ann Miller, RSM, for
the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
and Sisters of Mercy of Rochester

Retirement party honored respected priest

To the editors:

I would like to thank the fine people of St. Patrick's Parish in Mt. Morris for giving us the opportunity to honor Father Norbert Nolan at the time of his retirement.

This holy and admirable man deserved the tribute paid him by former parishioners, friends, Catholic and non-Catholic, and many, many of his fellow

priests. The testimonials to his kind and godly contributions to so many over the years were heartwarming. He is loved and respected by all whose lives he has touched with his caring ways and quiet humor. We are proud of him. God knows his own.

Rita Curtin
Route 14A
Geneva

Headline misconstrued writer's point

To the editors:

I submitted a letter (published Nov. 12) regarding Lee Strong's Columbus article (Oct. 1). The (headline for) the letter stated "Courier article offered balanced view" and had a large picture representing Columbus along side.

Apparently my opinion was not as clearly stated as it could have been. I wanted to be supportive of Mr. Strong's attempt on this subject when I wrote that "Mr. Strong's article was more balanced on this topic than most articles appearing in Catholic sources that I have read."

But the next paragraph started with the sentence, "I feel that for a truly balanced perspective... the views of Native Americans should be given equal attention."

This was not done in Mr. Strong's article and I even suggested a "complementary article that presents this issue from the Native American viewpoint."

In other words Mr. Strong's article, in my opinion, was not balanced and I question how that (headline) was decided upon. The (headline) in large, bold letters set a tone for the letter that was contradictory and misleading.

I hope readers caught the true perspective that I hoped to convey in my letter.

William F. Coon
Curry Road
Trumansburg

EDITORS' NOTE: We regret any confusion the headline may have caused.