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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 disagree 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.

Story ushered in sad day for Catholics

To the editors:

The article in the Feb. 25 edition of the *Catholic Courier* concerning diocesan efforts to support the Vision Interfaith Satellite Network ("Diocese joins effort to add religious network to cable") ushered in another sad day for Catholics in Monroe County.

Having been associated with efforts to bring EWTN coverage to Monroe County for the past seven years, I find it difficult to express the sense of shock at the recent turn of events felt by myself and the many Catholics who labored so diligently on behalf of EWTN for so many years. For diocesan spokesperson Father George Norton to claim that EWTN supporters did not seek his support to convince Greater Rochester Cablevision to carry EWTN simply does not correspond to the truth. We have plenty of documentation to support the fact.

Furthermore, all Catholics in Monroe County have the right to know that the outstanding Catholic programming available on EWTN is fully consistent with the official teachings of the Church, loyally supportive of the Holy Father and completely consonant with the spirit of unity Jesus intended for His universal Church.

Just for the record, Catholics comprise one-third (234,000) of the total population in Monroe County and represent 61.2 percent of adherents to all of the faith traditions combined. A full one-



third of the programming carried by VISN serves the Southern Baptist Convention and its adherents. Official statistics reflect that there are 554 Southern Baptist Convention adherents — one-tenth of 1 percent of the total county population! — in Monroe County. What percentage of VISN programming would be available for Catholic programming — 7 or 8 percent at best?

Why anyone would want to deprive thousands of Catholic and non-Catholic shut-ins, nursing home residents and hospital patients — not to mention our Hispanic Catholics — access to the spiritually uplifting programming of EWTN defies comprehension.

Those of us who will continue to fight to bring EWTN coverage to Monroe County recognize our rights as Catholics as clearly set forth in the documents of Vatican II and the 1983 Revised Code of Canon Law. We will continue to press Greater Rochester Cablevision for our rights to access to Catholic program-

ming, despite the absence of office support. EWTN supporters believe with all our hearts that sooner or later God will bless our efforts — no matter how long it takes or how many obstacles we must overcome.

Deacon William F. Schmitz
Cedargrove Drive
Rochester

Lost opportunity evokes dismay

To the editors:

It was with dismay that I read about the lost opportunity for Eternal Word Television (Network) in the Rochester area. That is such a wonderful network and a Catholic voice is so needed in our area. In this day of evangelization I cannot think of a better way to reach thousands of families than with Mother Angelica's 24 hour programming of spiritually inspirational religious services, inspiring and informative talks and entertainment.

What a great opportunity we have to bring this worthwhile program to Rochester. I will not have cable TV in my home unless I am able to tune into the Eternal Word Television.

Joan M. Rand
North Drive
Rochester

Disturbed by views on UW

To the editors:

Michael DeLorme eloquently put forth the reasons why the Leadership Teams of the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph are wrong in their support of the Bishop's association with the United Way (*Catholic Courier*, Feb. 18: "Bishop should take a stand on United Way"). However, even more disturbing is the grass roots attitude toward this matter. Two weeks ago our church (St. Pius Tenth in Chili) had a guest speaker from a church in Greece. The theme was "Sacrificial Giving," and as part of his talk, the speaker made the point that it was great to support the United Way.

This attitude appears to reflect that of many religious and involved lay people who seem to believe that giving to the United Way is not fostering abortions and the subsequent building of abortion clinics — the goal of Planned Parenthood in the Rochester area. And, as we all know, Planned Parenthood receives an extremely large chunk of United Way contributions. Apparently they believe that you can circumvent supporting abortions by designating your own charity. Well, let me say that this is so very naive, and it is sad to think these supposedly intelligent people buy into it. Contributions to United Way which are earmarked for a specific charity merely release other funds to go to Planned Parenthood — abortions and the clinics planned for Rochester.

Therefore, if you feel abortion clinics should not be part of our community, then I ask that you PLEASE DO NOT give to the United Way. Send your contributions directly to your favorite charity. By so doing you will also avoid contribution to ridiculous overhead expenses, and also be able to make a statement about other issues that perhaps you feel have not been taken seriously enough.

Florence Goodwin
Laredo Drive, Rochester



File photo

Would strict orthodoxy bring back the days when dioceses all across the country ordained priests in large classes?

Does orthodoxy promote vocations?

To the editors:

In today's mail, I received some most satisfying news from both the Legionaries of Christ and the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter. Both of these truly orthodox orders and strict followers of the teachings of our Holy Father are enjoying tremendous growth, having a difficult time in finding the facilities to house the growing number of seminarians.

I also received the latest edition of the *Catholic Courier* dated Feb. 18. In this issue Bishop Clark raises the question "What can we do to interest more of our

wonderful young men in a vocation to the priesthood.

Perhaps the Bishop could inquire as to what these Orders offer their seminarians so that this shortage can be resolved.

One could very readily come to the conclusion that these aspiring young men are seeking the truly orthodox teachings of these Orders, both of whom enjoy the full backing of our Holy Father.

Eugene Bowe
Lowman

Columnist sounds like a Protestant

To the editors:

It is clearly evident that Father McBrien is a Protestant Minister disguised as Catholic Priest. His column is constantly at odds with the Vatican's position, whether it be pro-life marches; women in the priesthood; marriage for priests; etc. In his Feb. 25 column, he asks, "Why have so many Catholics drifted away from participation in the church?" He goes on to say, "could it be because of the enemies within the church?" McBrien fails to identify these "enemies." Certainly, we Catholics who don't "Protest" — as in Protestant — against the Vatican know who these ene-

mies really are.

He goes on to accuse the church hierarchy of not responding to the "signs of the times" with new and creative means of evangelization. This sounds more and more to me like Calvin or Luther speaking, not a Catholic Priest.

If you wish to be addressed as Reverend McBrien, rather than Father McBrien, leave the Catholic garments behind, and quit trying to fool the flock. Then again, we are a forgiving people, and if you choose to stay and follow the rules, you are more than welcome.

Michael P. Valerio
Malin Lane, Penfield