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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.

Writers consider problem pregnancy

Life is more important than political debates

To the editors:

If I have to listen to one more debate about the rights of women and "reproductive freedom," I think I'll vomit. We are so concerned in our society about what certain people say the rights of women are that we are blinded to anything else. Even in our Church we need to be politically correct when it comes to the language we use. But when we realize that we abort at least 200 unborn children each week in Rochester, we should realize that this is more important than debating women's rights and inclusive language, no matter how we feel about feminism.

Each week in Rochester some people spend their time standing outside abortion mills and attempt to save the lives of tiny babies who cannot speak for themselves. We have a few successes — only a few — but we continue to try for those few women who do turn away. We would do it even if it only meant one life was spared. What is worth more than that? If some people are alienated because they don't understand or agree with what we are doing, should we not be there to save that one life? If we spend our time working against injustice in some other way, who will be there to save that one little baby? We need to work to better our society as a whole, but what about that baby scheduled for execution right now?

Well meaning people, our Catholic brothers and sisters, will tell us that we would focus on taking care of the women. If more were done to eliminate poverty and sexism there would be the need for fewer abortions, they say. We should work toward eliminating the causes for abortion, because the pro-lifers are only alienating people and not solving anything.

Guess what, that's exactly what the pro-abortion advocates have been saying for years. It's the same story — just repackaged with a Christian message, and plainly and simply it allows for the killing of more and more unborn children.

Of course we care for the women. We know what abortion does to the babies — it tears them limb from limb — and we know what abortion does to the



S. John Wilkin/Photo Intern
Pro-life demonstrators — coordinated by the Pro-Life Planning Committee — were met by pro-choice activists April 16 at the Rochester office of Planned Parenthood. The incident occurred during the planning committee's annual Good Friday prayer service and procession.

mothers. The mother will experience intense physical pain during the abortion and far worse emotional pain afterward. Even if she doesn't recognize why she feels this pain, deep down inside, instinctively, every woman knows that when she has had an abortion, she has lost her baby. She can cover it up with phrases like "it was the right thing to do" or "I wasn't ready to be a mother yet and it was the best thing at the time" or any other slogan you like, but eventually — and it may take 15 years — reality surfaces and she must either deal with reality or cover it up with alcohol, drugs, promiscuity and the like.

Of course we should work to eliminate poverty and injustice from our society, and of course women should feel fulfilled in their worship in the church, but if I need to choose between being the "victim" of sexism and accepting the victimization of babies and their mothers by abortion, I'll take the former. It's a much easier cross to bear.

Amy L. Dorscheid
Aspen Drive
Rochester

Clinics assist women

To the editors:

If the Freedom of Choice Act gets through Congress to be signed into law, the U.S.A. will have the barbaric reputation of being the world's leader in abortions!

Some folks forget that one of the best places to get help to avoid abortion is the phone: Birthright, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Problem Pregnancy Center — and others with the same type of name — are in the phone book yellow pages under abortion alternatives and are in every state including Hawaii!

They are staffed by caring, energetic folks, mostly volunteers. There the volunteers seek to give an "oasis" for the mother and her baby where they can feel secure and feel real concern.

The guiding rule of the staffs is to serve the woman with a problem pregnancy to meet all her needs in the same spirit as Mother Teresa secures the poor — to see each client as a child of God! God bless you!

Mary Rita Crowe
East Main Street, Rochester

Urges return to traditional Marian devotions

To the editors:

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother, gave us two devotions, the Rosary and the brown scapular. She stated "One day, through these devotions, I will save the world."

Do you, who are reading this, wear the brown scapular and pray the rosary? Through the rosary and scapular we get to Mary. Through Mary we get to Jesus.

Many parishes no longer have a rosary recitation at all. Some parishes announce the rosary will be said, one Sunday a month. Rosaries and scapulars left in back of church by Marian groups stay there for weeks and months, not even picked up. St. Dominic claimed he received a command from Heaven to establish a confraternity of the most Holy Rosary. Few Catholics belong.

What are we doing? Fifteen promises were given to us by Our Blessed Lady for those who would recite the rosary. This is not Madison Avenue hype. These are promises by the Mother of Jesus. Do we need more of an incentive?

A 1977 survey showed less than 2 percent of the Catholic population in America was aware of Fatima. A 12 year old

girl in CCD class wanted to know how many decades the rosary contained.

Our Blessed Lady wishes every parish to bring the rosary and scapular to life again, rosary and Marian groups in each parish, family rosary recitation, group rosaries in homes of Catholics meeting together on their own.

How about the importance of the rosary preached from the pulpit, taught by CCD instructors. What is more important than this message from Heaven?

Are modern bishops too friendly to dissenters?

To the editors:

In view of the sad situation of the Church because of the abdication of many of its leaders from responsible behavior, I think it advisable for the Pope to replace bishops in wholesale quantities. If they will not support the Pope, he should not support them.

Let them form their own church but without Catholic in its title. We can then see whether Catholics will support the loose morals and disruptive theology we have been subjected to.

Once again Catholics can be members

of the true Church. Maybe without friendly bishops, pedophile priests will be ousted and scofflaw priests and religious will be cast out like the dross they are.

Maybe once again religious publications will support the Pope, and foreign elements will be eliminated from the true worship of the Mass. If God wills it, it can happen. The Church will only be stronger; the renewed faith will keep marching on.

John F. Starkweather
Middle Road, Rush