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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.



This photo from 1989 shows a Chilean family of nine eating soup — provided by a soup kitchen— in their one-room shack in a Santiago slum.

**Sisters offer thanks for mission aid**

To the editors:

Greetings to the people of the Rochester Diocese. Celebrations are in order to honor all of you who have for 25 years faithfully maintained the Sisters of Mercy who minister to the poor and needy in Santiago, Chile and now also in the port city of Valparaiso.

It is fitting that this special celebration of your generosity to us comes at a great moment in the history of our presence in Chile: the final profession of two of our Chilean Sisters, Lia Gonzalez S. and Maria Inés Olguín C. This event would never have taken place if it weren't for your sacrifices.

Since the days of Bishop Sheen, you have supported our mission generously and have enabled us to serve as Sisters of Mercy among a people we have come to love as our own.

You can be certain that your sacrifices have been worth while. Where we serve, you are serving. When we begin new

ministries, you are there with us, and you have been there all along.

Where have you been in Chile, and where are you now? During the 16 and a half years of dictatorship, you were feeding poor children in "comedores." You were walking with the families of those who had been tortured or killed. You were braving tear gas and water wagons while protesting against the flagrant injustices. You were encouraging women whose families had no income or less than minimum to join a laundry cooperative which, even to this day functions to a limited degree.

Those long years saw many tragedies in Chile. You were there in the floods that inundated the poor areas every few years. You sent relief. The earthquake of 1985 became a focus for your generosity. You came to Chile to visit us in the person of Bishop Casey first, then Bishop Hogan and those who accompanied him. You have come to us each time

Bishop Clark has paid us a visit.

Imagine yourselves being present, as you are in your sacrifices for us, in the ways we have had the privilege of ministering: Para-liturgies, Baptisms, marriages, funeral responses, Communion to the sick, sacramental preparation, penitential rites, formation of small Christian communities, New evangelization, prayer groups, senior citizen clubs, youth groups, and the everyday service to those who come to our door in need.

All of us are deeply grateful to all of you who have made it possible for us to remain in Chile. May God continue to bless you and reward your great generosity to the missions of the Diocese of Rochester.

Mercy Sisters Janet Caufield, Margaret Mary Mattie Jane Kenrick, Soledad Cantillana Calderon, Anne Marie Mathis, Lia González Sandoval, Margaret Mungovan, Joanne Deck and Maria Inés Olguín Caro

**Society must regain sense of self-control**

To the editors:

Night after night, I listen to the News and I am really starting to wonder about this country as a whole. It is obvious to me that the only topic worth discussing, commenting on, picking candidates on and learning about day-to-day issues on is the topic of abortion. Abortion seems to me to be the only issue that people can relate to, defend, and is the only issue that we nominate or elect our public officials on. I think that this upcoming event of selecting a new Supreme Court Justice was the last straw for me.

I am very pro-life; very much opposed to abortion in any form, method or reason for. The whole issue to me of calling an unborn baby a mere fetus is the biggest cop-out excuse used by the modern woman as well as man. People would never think of killing their baby before birth. This would be murder and there would be no doubt about it. But, by cleverly convincing one that it is only a fetus, even though it is a living part of a woman's body without a doubt, makes it some how more acceptable and not seem as if it is a human life-to-be!

We in this "modern" day and age have become so gullible that we have reached a form of existence that we can be conceived that this action of down

right killing of babies is therefore acceptable and proper merely by a change of a word. We call this a Right, a Freedom, a Choice. Some of us must be so scared of losing this Pro-Choice "Right" that it is beginning to occupy our total existence in politics including all forms and levels of government.

Women are so afraid to maybe lose this "right" and be found liable for these actions in the future that they are starting to ask everyone who is aspiring to become a future leader in government what their position on the abortion issue is. I am really starting to think that if one were to say that he or she were against abortion that they would surely become unelectable. Even our President and Vice President have changed their position over the years sensing this

growing trend.

With time I am hoping that this whole issue will be reversed. I hope that we will see the evil of our ways very soon. What would be the possibility that this nation has already aborted the person or persons who could have found the cure for cancer or even AIDS? This could be a real possibility!

I hope that this supposedly great land of ours soon decides that maybe a little self-control, more stressing of sexual abstinence, and maybe a little more religion in our lives will soon find its way into the hearts of the people here and around the world before we lower our moral existence to an even lower level than we have stooped to now!

Jean Anne Rossignolo  
Long Pond Road, Rochester

**Don't forget 'holocaust' of abortion**

To the editors:

When the Holocaust took place in history some 50 years ago, some people are saying that we should make sure this doesn't happen again.

For the past 20 years, there has already been another Holocaust taking place and this is called "abortion."

Hitler wanted to exterminate the Jew-

ish race because in his eyes they were the unwanted people, much like what people are saying about the aborted unborn. But in God's eyes, all babies are wanted, whether born or unborn.

Whose eyes are we looking through today?

Dianna R. Ives  
Simpson Road, Rochester