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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.

Donor options have minimal impact

To the editors:

Although I haven't had the pleasure of reading Ms. Goodwin's letter (*Catholic Courier*, March 25: "Disturbed by Views on UW") it appears to me that she had plenty of cause to bring Mr. McCarthy to task for his comments concerning United Way.

Rather than speak directly to ... Mr. McCarthy's comments regarding the results of withholding funds from United Way (*Courier*, April 29: "Writer twisted tithing remark") I will state the facts. Any money to United Way is money to Planned Parenthood. The donor options do nothing to change the allocation process. Any money to Planned Parenthood is money to abortion. For example, since the abortion clinic is in Planned Parenthood's University Avenue building, if you help pay the (Rochester Gas and Electric) bill for the counseling services you keep the lights on in the clinic. By the way, when your money goes to Planned Parenthood's counseling services, an activity openly funded by United Way, you are supporting Rochester's largest abortion referral service, a service that will have a direct affect on the number of abortions performed by Planned Parenthood's clinic.

Contrary to Mr. McCarthy's position, withholding contributions is not only legitimate, but a powerful means of voicing opinions. His example of taxes misses the mark because charitable contributions are voluntary. Taxes are not optional. We are required to pay taxes no matter how we feel about where our money goes.

Contributions are given freely and as such the donor is held morally responsible for how this money is used. No matter how many good services are made

available through United Way, their tie to the absolute moral wrong of abortion requires us to find alternative routes for our contributions.

The argument that we can overlook the wrong because we receive benefits is nonsense. The amount of money one stands to gain in no way alters the morality of the action in question. Killing my parents is wrong no matter how much money I stand to inherit or how many good deeds I plan with this money. If we freely and knowingly contribute to any charity that in any way promotes abortion, no matter how many good things they do or how much we stand to gain, then we are culpable. We are as morally responsible as the

abortionist for we hand him his tools.

I agree with Mr. McCarthy that the United Way board is an excellent place for a "Defender of the Unborn." However, Bishop Clark's position on that board certainly has had no positive impact on the United Way/Planned Parenthood agreement. In fact Diocesan support of United Way under the present circumstances only serves to perpetuate the current status. A status that defenders of the unborn recognize must change.

**Dorothy L. Hayes, Coordinator/1993
Citizens for United Way
Responsibility
Rock Beach Road
Rochester**

Takes exception to letter headline

To the editors:

I have just read Tom McCarthy's letter regarding the United Way (April 29), which, incidentally, was in response to my letter which appeared in the March 25 issue. Let me say at the outset that I have no intention of carrying on a dialogue with Mr. McCarthy since it appears we are at opposite ends on whether our Bishop should be on the United Way Board. He feels he is right, and I know I am right, so let us end that matter.

I do take exception, however, to the (headline) which the *Courier* placed on his letter, namely, "Writer twisted tithing remark," and because of this, I feel I should have the opportunity to make it clear that I did not twist his remarks as is evidenced by his own quote "the other 5 percent to the world's poor — and the world's poor can



include ... the United Way." Is this not saying it is OK to support the United Way? Enough said.

**Florence Goodwin
Laredo Drive, Rochester**

EDITORS' NOTE: The headlines on our letters to the editor merely summarize the opinions expressed in the letters themselves; unlike headlines on news or feature articles, letter headlines are not intended to be accepted as fact.

Mass goers are captive audience for improper practices

To the editors:

As a Catholic I am obligated to Sunday Mass or else incur sin. This forces me to become a member of a captive audience for anything that is permitted or promulgated to those present at mass.

Presence is neither tolerance, acceptance or approval — just the desire to honor God and not sin.

I have been subjected to women reading the Gospel, the appearance of non-ordained men and women concelebrating, a homily that 90 percent suggested Mary had more children after Christ.

There is the recurring nomenclature of

the Vicar of Rome, the Pope, as Bishop of Rome — an attempt to equalize the teaching authority of the Pope with other Bishops? — and the constant neutering of God as a Father in Liturgical prayers.

Then there is the sorry excuse for altar girls, "the boys aren't coming." It is common knowledge a priest does not need anyone for him to say Mass — some conditions, but not vital to a congregation.

It was almost humorous at the time, but the worst was a loaf of homebaked rye bread consecrated as the host — Delicious bread, though.

Women are mainstay of the Catholic Church

To the editors:

This message is being presented to the readers of the *Catholic Courier* so as to inform you of a fact I have observed for many years in churches, in numerous states, cities and countries.

My message is neither "pro or con" regarding the role of women in the church. On TV Jack Webb used to say, "Ma'am the facts, just the facts." It concerns daily and Sunday Mass attendance — by both men and women.

I have consistently noted at daily Mass that the percentage of women is much higher than men. Male attendance seems to run about 25 percent and even less. Sunday does show some improvement in male attendance, which I estimate at about 35 percent or so. Supporting women never attended Mass, the churches would be just about empty!

Men may argue, we are the breadwinners and have to work. True! How about the many retirees? Don't forget in modern society, women also make up a good percentage of the work force, both in the single and married state of life.

How about Sundays? Men will take their children to CCD class and Mass

and return in a couple of hours to pick up their offsprings. The results may very well be the children will follow in their father's footsteps and forget the church, Mass, and even their religion.

Excuses are many for not fulfilling Sunday obligations to worship in the house of God such as, wash the car, paint, care for the lawn, going on a trip, cooking, clean house and the list goes on and on.

J. Edgar Hoover the former/late Director of the FBI stated many years ago: "The main cause of juvenile delinquency is parental neglect!" Parents, men and women think about the above message. You and you alone can make the decision to accept or reject your parental responsibilities. Of your own free will and with the good Lord's help it will be done!

The following is a prayer of petition which will help each one of us to overcome our shortcomings and faults:

Help us heavenly Father, to know your will, to accept your will, to carry out your will. So be it.

**Francis J. Mastropietro
Clark Street, Auburn**

The concepts of "inclusiveness," "prophesy," and "priesthood of the people" appear to support pro-abortion, homosexuality, women priests et al. Those who support these concepts, when presented with a difference of opinion, somehow abrogate those same concepts for those who oppose their teaching.

God created the natural and moral law. He did not create "Adam and Dan" or "Jan and Nan." Eve did not have an abortion nor did Mary. Whether we like it or not God is the Father on which every cell of our being depends.

Many modern theologians are not theonomous; they are "Foggy-Bottoms" obfuscating truth which makes people "feel good" and no need to change.

The late Archbishop Sheen wrote "Old Heresies with New Labels" — simply the attempt to divorce the Catholic Church from Rome — shade of Henry VIII!

The Holy Ghost is still winnowing the chaff from the wheat. Christ showed us justifiable anger when he drove the moneychangers from the temple. God made up and down and the opposite of include is exclude. Truth never "in-cludes" error. Prophecy ended with Christ.

Basically I am a Deist — by choice Catholic. There is more truth in the blades of growing grass my good husband cuts — to keep them from becoming sinfully unkempt — than what I sometimes, more and more often, am presented with as a captive audience Mass member.

"Inclusion," "prophesy" and "the priesthood of the people" does not stop the weeds of error. Truth cannot be determined by popular opinion.

I am a woman and I object. God gives the very best to those who leaves the choice to him.

**Shirley F. Schuhart, OFM (tertiary)
Whalen Road, Penfield**