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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.

Demands closing of soldiers' school

To the editors:

As a Catholic priest with the Maryknoll Order, I have been an outspoken critic of U.S. military aid to El Salvador for the past 13 years. My involvement in El Salvador began in 1980, after Salvadoran soldiers raped and murdered three nuns and a lay missionary. Two of the slain nuns were Maryknoll Sisters.

In March of this year, the United Nations Truth Commission Report on El Salvador was released. This report named 62 Salvadoran military officers responsible for the most serious acts of violence in El Salvador's long civil war. According to lists of graduates obtained from the National Security Archives in Washington, D.C. 47 of the 62 officers cited in the Truth Commission Report were trained at the U.S. Army School of the Americas, currently located at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The School of the Americas (S.O.A.) was established in Panama in 1946, and over the years has trained 55,000 soldiers from Latin American countries. This year, 2,000 soldiers from 18 Latin American countries will be trained for combat at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning. This training, which costs millions of dollars, is paid for by U.S. taxpayers. But this school is not only costly in dollars, but also in human lives:

ITEM — Assassination of Archbishop Romero: 3 officers cited; 2 are S.O.A. graduates.

ITEM — Rape, murder of 4 U.S. churchwomen: 5 officers cited; 3 are S.O.A. graduates.

ITEM — El Mozote massacre of 700 civilians: 12 officers cited, 9 are S.O.A.



File photo

In this photo from September, 1991, Judge Ricardo Zemora (center rear) reviews documents at the start of proceedings against eight officers accused of killing six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter. Three of the eight defendants are pictured in the foreground.

graduates.

ITEM — Jesuit massacre of six priests and 2 women: 27 officers cited; 19 are S.O.A. graduates.

ITEM — Las Hojas massacre of 16 civilians: 6 officers cited; 3 are S.O.A. graduates.

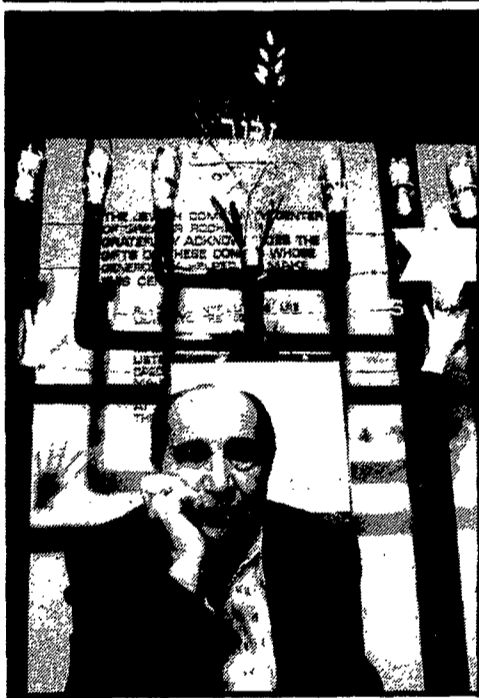
ITEM — San Sebastian massacre of 10 civilians: 7 officers cited; 6 are S.O.A. graduates.

As a missionary working to relieve the

suffering of the poor in Latin America, I feel that the training provided to Salvadoran and other Latin American soldiers at the School of the Americas is an outrage. The School of the Americas should be shut down, and our tax dollars used to ease the suffering of the poor.

For more information, write: Father Roy Bourgeois, M.M., S.O.A. Watch, P.O. Box 3330, Columbus, GA 31903

Roy Bourgeois, M.M.



'Astounded' by seeming lack of mention of Catholic victims

To the editors:

In reading the article on the Holocaust in the May 6 edition of the *Catholic Courier*, I was astounded to notice that not one mention was made of the sacrifice of Catholics by the Nazis.

At the Dachau Memorial, north of Munich, there is a memorial to the 50 percent of the Polish priests who were annihilated by the Nazis. Why no mention of this in your paper? Are you so into ecumenism that the lives of these priests don't count? Unbelievable!

Richard I. Mulvey
Hector Street, Ithaca

EDITORS' NOTE: Two related articles

about the Holocaust actually appeared on the front page of our May 6 issue. We packaged these articles together to provide a more comprehensive treatment of the topic than could be accomplished in a single story of readable length.

Staff writer Rob Cullivan's human-interest story, "Survivors of Nazi horrors recall tales of inhumanity," focused on three survivors and was not intended to provide an all-encompassing treatment of the Holocaust. The accompanying *Catholic News Service* article, "Museum recounts Holocaust," specifically mentioned the execution of Catholic clergy in Poland, and the heroism of Catholics who helped to save Jews.

Believes rebuttal to column endorsed false values

To the editors:

... (Kathleen A Turturo's) letter of May 13 ("Irked by 'sensationalism,' sexism in column") rejected sound Catholic teaching in favor of a women's liberation movement that criticizes family values.

Attacking Father Shamon's column "Beware of bad sirens" (April 29) for an alleged attack on womanhood, K.A. Turturo said that Father Shamon focused "... entirely upon women as an evil force in the world."

Actually Father Shamon was criticizing the false values of today's world and the podium of television that promotes these false values.

To counter these promotions of sinful lifestyles we need prayer, sacrifice and a good Catholic press.

Unfortunately we have people ... who attack the church and use the Catholic press to voice their heresy.

We also have members of the clergy like Father Richard P. McBrien who

write weekly columns criticizing the church.

Recently Bishop James P. Keleher ordered Father McBrien's column dropped from his diocesan newspaper, *The Messenger* in Belleville, Illinois.

Perhaps Bishop Matthew H. Clark will follow suit and order Father McBrien's heretical column to disappear

from the *Catholic Courier*.

We need more Father Shamons, fewer

Father McBriens and also fewer critics ...

Robert W. Bart
Elm Street
Ithaca

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter has been edited to comply with the *Catholic Courier's* Letters Policy.

Complaint letter contained excessive protest

To the editors:

Regarding Kathleen A. Turturo's letter dated May 13 in the *Catholic Courier* ("Irked by 'sensationalism,' sexism in column"): "Methinks the lady doth protest too much."

If she's a modern-day well educated Catholic, seems as if she'd use a little more discretion.

Sometimes you can find the pulse of a newspaper in it's opinion page and permanent columnists, such as Father

Shamon's.

After Father Cuddy passed on to his heavenly reward I usually read Father Shamon's column first.

He does hit the nail on the head and ruffle a few feathers — makes people perk up and take notice.

Bouquets and cheers — printing that which the staff may not agree with. Thank you.

Rena B. Camblin
Meadow Drive, Palmyra