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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.

Everyone must work to end racism

To the editors:

Since the beginning of time man has been faced with problems. Some are easy to see and easy to solve, while others have roots that are harder to see, and often harder to face.

RACISM! Where did it begin? And how will it end? Those are two of the problems that are at hand here today. When was the actual first time that someone woke up in the morning and figured that the color of their skin, their ethnicity, their social status, or their religious beliefs made them far superior than that of the likes in which those they disdain?

Some racism can be traced to ignorance. People often don't go out of their way to learn the background of other ethnicities. Some can be out of cowardice, a learned trait, coming out of an unwillingness to speak up on your own, to go against your friends, co-workers, neighbors, or family. The last one being the hardest to accept, family!

Would any God fearing man given the "compass of life," knowingly point their children one step in the direction of hell? That is exactly what happens when hatred spews from the mouth, via racist remarks. Your color may make you better off in the eye's of America, but it doesn't make you better in the eye's of God!

Here in Rochester, we can make a difference by taking it upon ourselves as individuals to combat racism. And it only makes sense that we should start right here.

In 1855 few blacks achieved any prominence or became well known to the general public in the age of slavery. Frederick Douglass was an exception. He was born a slave in Baltimore, and escaped and made his way to Boston in 1838. ...

... In 1847 he founded an abolitionist newspaper, *The North Star*, and during the Civil War he persuaded President Lincoln to use blacks as soldiers.

Harriet Tubman was the leader of the Underground Railroad. She was one of a select few people who crossed the Mason-Dixon line to pick up slaves and lead them to freedom. She was so good at sneaking into the South at night with-



File photo
A Jewish man gets in a scuffle with a black bystander during an October, 1992, demonstration in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn. The demonstration occurred in the wake of the acquittal of a black youth charged with murdering a rabbinical student.

out being detected, the Union army used her as a spy to check out Confederate troop movements.

Many of the slaves Harriet Tubman brought from the South made their passage to freedom through Rochester while on their way to St. Catherine's, Ontario, and other Canadian cities. We all know that Frederick Douglass resided in Rochester for some 25 years, but what goes unmentioned is the fact that Harriet Tubman settled down in Auburn, a town just west of Syracuse. We in Rochester should feel privileged that two such leaders in the fight against social injustice, had done great works right in and around the heart of our city.

I say that people in Rochester can lay claim to living in the "Cradle of Freedom," the birthplace of a new beginning for many people who were spun through the web of slavery for over 300 years. But I also say that many of those old feelings have come into the forefront all too often over the past few years. I

believe it's time we take a stand and "rock the cradle," in an effort to put further social injustice's to sleep!

... David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword, spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

I'd say we have a chance!

Gene M. Legler
Pollard Avenue
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter has been edited to comply with space limitations.

Article did not serve organization's needs

To the editors:

While we appreciate the notice in the June 10 *Catholic Courier* about Mary Magdalene House Women's Outreach Center ("Churches, center attempting to assist desperate women"), there are several inaccuracies we wish to address.

First of all, the Center — which opened at 206 Lyell Ave. on June 1 — is a full referral service for all women and children with HIV/AIDS, not just those who acquired the virus through life on the streets. We have offered service to 15 year olds, Kodak workers, city residents and suburbanites.

The title suggest that our clients are "desperate women." We disagree. Women with HIV/AIDS need compassionate, confidential support and a range of services for themselves and their children.

You misprinted the telephone number. It is 716/458-5728. We regret that the Center, a new service, was presented in the picture caption as "among other things" offering services to HIV-infected women. For the record, that's our only purpose.

We encourage women with HIV/AIDS and their families to contact us, and we would welcome a follow-up article by the *Catholic Courier*.

The Board of Directors

Mary Magdalene House
Women's Outreach Center
206 Lyell Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14608

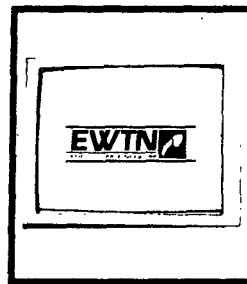
EDITOR'S NOTE: We regret misprinting the center's telephone number and are glad for the chance to correct that error. With regard to the board's other complaints, however, we offer no apologies. Prior to conducting interviews, staff writer Rob Cullivan informed the center's directors that **prostitution — not women with HIV/AIDS or Mary Magdalene House itself — was the subject of his front-page**

article. Since Mary Magdalene House — named, we note, after the best-known prostitute in history — serves prostitutes as well as other women with HIV/AIDS, one portion of the story would address the center's work with prostitutes; other parts of the story would discuss different programs relating to prostitution. The *Courier* never intended to focus exclusively on Mary Magdalene House or women with HIV/AIDS, and we did not mislead the center's directors on this point. On the other hand, the article did stress repeatedly that the house offered services to women who were not prostitutes.

Contact GRC about cable network

To the editors:

Greater Rochester Cable, is very interested in hearing from the public, on their desire to have Eternal Word Television Network, a Catholic Network, here in Rochester, on a full time basis.



It is more than entertainment. It includes teaching series, live Church

events, devotions at regular times, documentaries, religious news specials and Mother Angelica — founder of this Network and many talk show guests. It is Evangelization at best.

Call GRC (716) 987-6300, to offer your support and write Mr. Frank Chiano, President, 71 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, NY 14620.

Your contact is essential and necessary, to let them know, you are interested!

Philomena Drexler
Wildbriar Road, Rochester