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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.

Barbara Fredericks
Birr Street
Rochester

Mayoral candidates set poor example

To the editors:

The *Catholic Courier*, reporting on the forum for mayoral hopefuls held at St. Michael's Hall on Aug. 3, writes about the four Catholic contenders, Kevin Murray, Maxine Childress-Brown, John Erb, Nancy Padilla. Remarks regarding abortion rights were made as follows:

John Erb: "he is not pro choice" — "nevertheless the woman is the one who ultimately makes the choice."

Kevin Murray: said he is pro choice; "as an elected official is sworn to uphold the law."

Nancy Padilla: "my role is not to impose my value system on others."

Maxine Childress-Brown: said she is pro-life, however, as an elected official she has to uphold the law.

These people seem to be practicing a strange kind of Catholicism. They don't want to follow the teaching of Christ — the Ten Commandments — nor the teaching of the Church — no abortion. They really are a poor example to all Catholics but especially to the young people.

Mary Studier
Mosley Road, Rochester
Louise Smith
Armstrong Road, Rochester
Josephine Coy
Legion Circle, Rochester
Nancy Frearson
Conrad Drive, Rochester

Paper shouldn't provide forum for encouraging disobedience

To the editor:

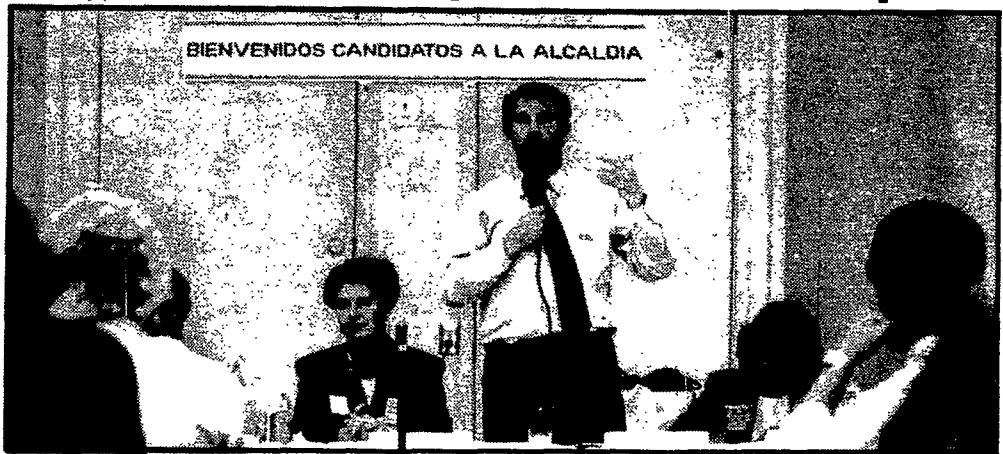
"*Humanae Vitae*" Twenty-five years of listening to dissenters like Father Curran and Monsignor Shannon — who seem bent on trying to destroy the teaching authority of the Church — and now you, the *Catholic Courier*, give them yet another forum! Quo Vadis *Catholic Courier*?!?!

To encourage dissent is obviously to encourage DISOBEDIENCE. And once disobedient, we become more and more alienated from the Church that we disobey. It is not that "*Humanae Vitae*" is wrong about birth control and that the Church has lost credibility because of it, thereby causing people to leave. Quite the contrary! "*Humanae Vitae*" sells the truth, a truth that is not palatable to some, and so they disobey it. And that disobedience causes an alienation from the Church which makes each successive disobedience from Church doctrine and Christian morals easier till at last it is so established that it is damnation! And after all what else is damnation than the proud, rebellious, "I refuse to obey!!!"

Germaine Greer, a feminist writer and one-time dissenter from "*Humanae Vitae*," now vocally teaches "*Humanae Vitae*" as a document filled with prophetic wisdom. She candidly states that she sees our society corroding from within "because of it's liberation from child bearing" which has burned into "a fear and hatred of children."

"They promised them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for whatever overcomes a man, to that he is enslaved." (2 Peter 2:19)

So, thank God for "*Humanae Vitae*" and the freedom that comes from obeying it.



Kevin Murray (center) responds to a question during the Aug. 3 mayoral forum at St. Michael's Hall.

Glad paper covers inner city

To the editors:

After reading the opinion under the heading of "Story served to promote vandalism" (*Catholic Courier*, July 22), I have found myself obligated to respond. I reside in the Northeast side of the City of Rochester where the vast majority of Sno's and Range's work can be found. At first, I used to spend my time complaining about graffiti and looking for ways to fight it. Until two years ago, when I had the privilege to meet Range and, later on, Sno. These young men have been instrumental in educating me with regards to their work. They DO NOT use Graffiti as a means of vandalism; rather it is a means of expressing their thoughts and feelings. Instead of these young men opting for drugs, violence, and crimes, they chose to become Graffiti artists. As Jean A. Black stated in his or her opinion, these youth are not amateurs at what they do. They are highly skilled and very professional about their work.

All of the Graffiti work pertaining to Sno and Range along North Clinton Avenue was done with consent of the property owners. The other sites throughout the city are not in the public eye. The areas are secluded and mostly surrounded by weeds. The owners of those properties have not formally com-

plained about the art work nor made attempts to remove it.

It makes me angry when members of society take it upon themselves to pass judgment without first researching the facts. I recommend Jean A. Black to spend more time in the City's Northeast side, fully expose his/her self to the way of life there and maybe Jean A. Black will begin to appreciate the things Range and Sno have done and are doing. These young men may not be acceptable by the standards set in Spencerport; however, here in the Rochester community a lot of people are proud of them and encourage these young men to continue with their work. If more young people chose this way of life the statistics would reflect lower rates in the areas of: crime, violence, drug use and abuse. Also, this work serves as a vehicle for raising self-esteem. As long as the Graffiti is being done legally, more power to them.

Also, I am pleased to see that the *Catholic Courier* chooses to present stories about the inner city. Not many publications choose to do this for fear of losing readers or subscribers. Keep up the good work!

Jeanette R. Lugo
Roser Street
Rochester

Sniping serves to confuse faithful

To the editors

Debate over Pope the VI encyclical *Humanae Vitae* was prominently displayed in the July 29th issue of the *Catholic Courier*.

Criticism for *Humanae Vitae* came from clerics like Father Charles Curran who himself was criticized and relieved of his religious teaching duties at Catholic University several years ago.

Another critic, Monsignor William H. Shannon, Professor emeritus of theology at Rochester's Nazareth College remarked: "If he had not made that one statement (about birth control) he could very well be considered the greatest pope of the 20th century."

By whom Monsignor? By whom? Probably by those critics who don't believe that the Sacraments, prayer and sacrifice can not defer sins of the flesh in our paganistic society.

Indeed we have individuals like the *National Catholic Reporter's* editor, Thomas C. Fox who believes that many of the church's problems are related to its rigid position on sex.

Evidently some members of the clergy agree with this position as copies of a *New York Times* article, "Wrong About Sex, Absolutely" by Thomas C. Fox were displayed in a local rectory.

Such sniping by so called Catholics only serves to confuse and weaken the resolve of the laity who are trying to fol-

low church teaching.

As Catholics we should remember that while we can discuss church teaching we are also required to follow it.

Robert Bart, Ithaca

Thanks cable system

To the editors:

Greater Rochester Cablevision is to be congratulated for its decision to provide 24 hour a day coverage to the ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK, plus two other religious networks.

Many Catholics have worked for many years to bring this about. To all those who supported our efforts through prayer and the giving of your time, we give our heartfelt thanks. It is only through your efforts that we can now enjoy EWTN around the clock.

To celebrate the success of our campaign, there will be a Liturgical Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church of the Holy Spirit, located on the corner of Hatch and Plank roads in Penfield, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25, 1993. All are invited to give thanks and celebrate this great happening. Bring your family friends and relatives and fill up the church.

Paul J. Alfano, co-chairman
Knights of Columbus
EWTN Committee
Sawmill Drive, Penfield