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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.

**Teens thank bishop for 'hanging out'**

**To the editors:**

We 12 teens from Christ the King and our Youth Minister have been on a pilgrimage to see the Pope for nearly a year with meetings, discussions, prayers, social events, fund raisers, mini retreats and much anticipation.

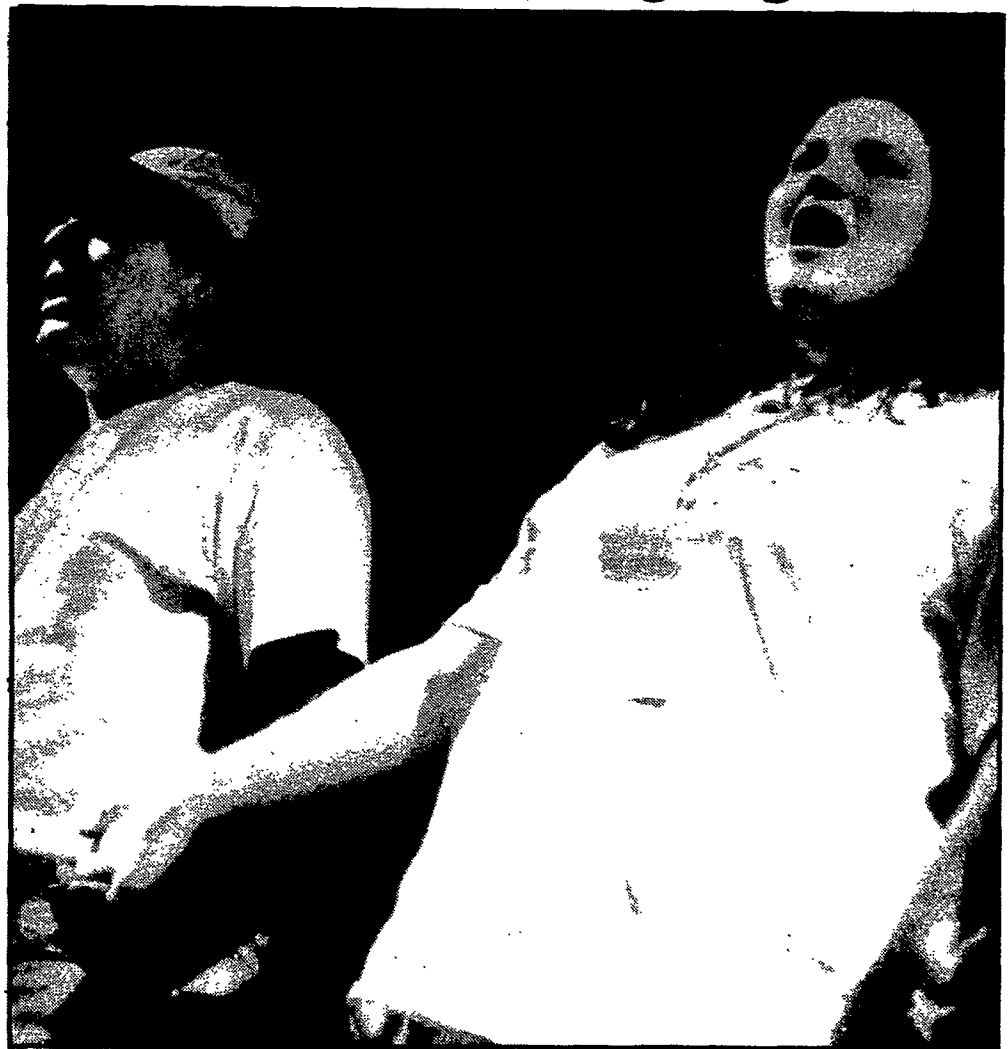
Finally the day of the physical journey arrived and we were off to Denver. We knew we would be a very small part of the hundreds of thousands of youth going there for the same reason, but the excitement was overwhelming. Our parish delegation was just two percent of the 500 participants from our diocese.

Something special happened to us on the second day that wasn't planned. We left for Mile High Stadium where there would be an early afternoon Mass and later that day Pope John Paul II would arrive, however our small group grew by one. He just tagged along. He hung out with us. We sat in the nose bleed section for Mass *way up!* and he was there. He walked with us, dressed in his sneakers, jeans, T-shirt and sunglasses. We left the stadium to stand in line for our McDonalds lunch, and so did he. We walked away from the area to eat and he walked with us. We stood in line for almost an hour and a half to re-enter the stadium and he stood by us talking, laughing and just hanging out. People spoke to him and he chatted with them.

We squeezed into the stadium to await the Pope. He sat with us. He listened, took notes and made all of us from Christ the King feel comfortable being in his company. His message to us was very clear. The Bishop of the Rochester Diocese cares about the Youth.

Thank you Bishop Clark for the honor.

**Brian Aloisio, Mile Burns,  
Lucien Ferruza, Jeff Klafehn,  
Devin Krug, Jason Kuby,  
Brian McAfee, Jodi Menges,  
Dan Monaco, Jennie Mura,  
Mike Napoli, Aaron Thiell  
and Paul Anastasi, youth minister**



File photo

**Bishop Matthew H. Clark sings "We Are One Body" while holding the hand of Karen Tomkins of Horseheads' Church of St. Mary Our Mother during World Youth Day events Aug 13.**

**Coverage focused too much on papal activity**

**To the editors:**

As the parent of a son who attended the Pilgrimage to Denver I was delighted to read the Bishop's Observations and experiences in Denver for World Youth Day.

I am however very disappointed as to the coverage that Mike Latona gave to this very important event. I think his

coverage was too general. We all know the Pope was going to say a Mass and that hundreds and thousands of people were going to be there. What I would liked to have read about were what our teens said, saw and did.

**Lynda Horrocks  
Falling Brook Road  
Fairport**

**Survey of women should focus on Europe**

**To the editors:**

In the two part article by Father McBrien on Sister O'Connor's book *Like bread, their voices rise* it would have made a much more convincing argument had the one continent which has produced more women saints, doctors and martyrs not been excluded from the too facile arguments concerning the role of women in the Church: namely, Europe. Bangladesh, Brazil and Uganda are countries still living, for the most part, on a primitive scale. To obtain a truly representative picture of the feeling of women, world-wide, a universal survey would need to be undertaken. Sister O'Connor has surveyed 1260 women in four countries — hardly a majority.

When some young people — female — from England and France respectively, were recently questioned at the Youth Rally in Denver concerning their feelings on Papal authority, the answers were to the effect that it was the Pope's "job" to tell us what to do. We should listen to him.

Countries which have produced St. Jeanne D'Arc, St. Teresa of Avila, Blessed Julian of Norwich, St. Hildergarde of Bingen, St. Jadiviga, St. Kune-gunda, St. Hilda and St. Audrey, to name a few, certainly have not repressed feminine talent. These were bold, courageous women who were admired and who lived for their Heavenly King. Perhaps a little more instruction about these good women and their role in the Church might be helpful in a

day which insists that we are victims.

As a Catholic raised in the U.K. to look on the Church of England as a heretical offshoot with dubiously valid ordinations, I find it especially offensive for Rev. McBrien to quote the wife of the Protestant Archbishop of one of the old-

est, original Catholic sees in England, as any kind of authority on matters relating to the role of women in the Church, Catholic or otherwise.

**Joyce P. Szwagiel  
Drummond Street  
Auburn**

**Column illuminated difficult parable**

**To the editors:**

In the past, Sunday's Gospel about the workers in the vineyard was always a mystery because it seemed unfair. The first workers who worked the entire day were paid the same as the workers who only worked the last hour. But after reflecting on the reading and thinking about Father Shamon's column "Parable teaches about God's graciousness," the parable takes on an all together different meaning for me.

Could it be that Christ is speaking to us in 20th century America. We take freedom of religion for granted. We have never been subjected to torture. Never have we been witness to seeing those we love killed for their faith. Nor have we had to acknowledge our faith in public knowing full well that such an admission would surely result in suffering and death.

Matthew's Gospel seems to tell us that we have access to the same promise of eternal life that the martyrs and the saints who suffered unimaginable pain and suffering. That in fact we are like the workers who only worked the last

hour. But we are promised the same pay as those who worked longer and suffered more.

What a gracious God is ours!

**Philip H. Yawman  
Woodlawn Avenue, Fairport**

**Who was that woman with attorney general?**

**To the editors:**

Was that Rochester's own U.S. Representative Louise M. Slaughter (D-28) sitting next to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno in your picture (*Courier*, Sept. 2)? I'll bet that Janet Reno found her way to Aberdeen and Post streets in the company of Congresswoman Slaughter. Can you help your faithful readers by identifying the woman pictured with Attorney General Reno? Thank you.

**P. David Finks  
Veazey Terrace, Washington, D.C.**

**EDITORS' NOTE:** Yes, the woman shown to the left of Reno was, indeed, Rep. Slaughter. Her name was omitted from the caption due to space constraints.