

1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624
716/328-4340

President
Bishop Matthew H. Clark
General Manager
Bishop Dennis W. Hickey
Editor/Asst. Gen. Mgr.
Karen M. Franz

Editorial Department

Managing Editor
Richard A. Kiley
Senior Staff Writer
Lee Strong
Finger Lakes

Staff writers
Rob Cullivan
Monroe County
Mike Latona
Southern Tier

Staff Photographer
St. John Wilkin
Photo Intern
Lauren McFalls

Business Department

Circulation Manager
Jeanne A. Morin
Office Manager
Amy D'Accursio
Receptionist
Lenna Hurley

Advertising Department

Advertising Manager
Bernie Puglisi
Advertising Account Exec.
Kathy Welsh

Production Department

Graphics Manager
Lorraine Hennessey
Graphic Artist
Kim Parks

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 letters 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.

Glad education became top priority

To the editors:

The state of Catholic teaching in our diocese came into question at the Synod (Oct. 1-3). As a delegate, I was happy to learn that recommendations 1 and 3, Lifelong Religious Education and Catholic Moral Education became top priorities in our diocese. Delegates sensed that something is profoundly missing in their lives. Even Bishop Clark shed a tear as he read the first priority.

What this hunger for truth did was produce two powerful ideas that the Synod implementation committee needs to put into concrete form in the coming years.

In voting for both these proposals, I found myself agreeing with many people in my group meetings. However, I found myself almost alone on context of the issue. Taking out the papal encyclical "The Role of the Christian Family In The Modern World," I explained how this book was the best written book on pre-Cana and marriage that I have ever read. Sadly, this book was not recognized by any of the people, more than 30 in all.

In writing this encyclical and "Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People," John Paul II must have spent thousands of hours in research, prayer, fasting and

listening to the Holy Spirit. The books are filled with hundreds of Biblical quotes, words of the saints, quotes from past councils and encyclicals. Yet nobody knew where to find them, and I am ashamed to admit, never saw them. They were not at the book display in the Synod Convention.

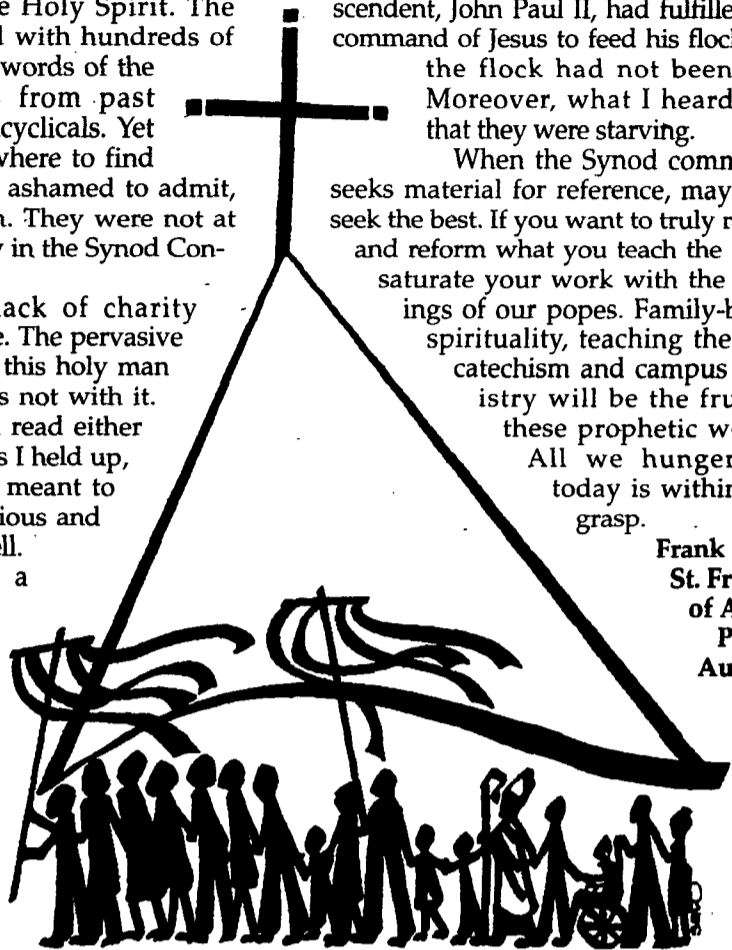
There was lack of charity toward the pope. The pervasive attitude toward this holy man was that he was not with it. Yet, no one had read either of the encyclicals I held up, and these were meant to be read by religious and lay people as well.

There is a strange irony here. We were delegates crying out for help, yet the true cry in the wilderness was the voice of our Supreme Pastor. Peter's de-

scendent, John Paul II, had fulfilled the command of Jesus to feed his flock. Yet the flock had not been fed. Moreover, what I heard was that they were starving.

When the Synod committee seeks material for reference, may they seek the best. If you want to truly renew and reform what you teach the flock, saturate your work with the writings of our popes. Family-based spirituality, teaching the new catechism and campus ministry will be the fruit of these prophetic works. All we hunger for today is within our grasp.

Frank Netti
St. Francis
of Assisi
Parish
Auburn



Feminist influence on synod was no surprise

To the editors:

The not so surprising Synod recommendations of eliminating restrictive gender roles and for deliberate inclusive language show the radical feminist agenda is clearly in the forefront. The "prophetic" recommendation calling for women priests only promotes division within the church. Our pope told the American bishops (Sept. 23, 1983) to "withdraw all support from individuals

or groups who, in the name of progress, justice, or compassion or for any other reason, promote the ordination of women to the priesthood." Truths and laws coming from Rome are being totally ignored.

It makes one wonder if a schism is forming between the Roman and the new American Catholicism. I think we should all be on guard. Perhaps those who find objection with the teachings of

the church — the dissenters — could find something more fitting to their preference in one of the existing Protestant denominations. We should be guarding our rich deposit of faith, coming to us from Jesus and the apostles, not watering it down to make it conform to secular society.

I'm sorry the feminists are upset that Jesus is a man and called God father but that's the way it is. I am happy and honored to be a woman and do not find men threatening. I find the feminists and their sympathizers the threatening ones, from Sister Schoelles of St. Bernard's ("no dead men on my walls" *Democrat and Chronicle*, Oct. 3) to those changing sacred scripture to hide the fact that Jesus was a man.

I also find it an insult to women that we are so stupid to think we are not included in God's plan of salvation when we are referred to as men or brothers. I don't see the Literary Guild of America trying to change Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* to *Of Mice and People*.

My hope is that the first recommendation about education will be to advance TRUE Catholic doctrine and teaching. As the pope has stated in his new encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, we, the faithful, have the right to receive Catholic doctrine in its purity and integrity.

"Whoever teaches in any other way, not holding to the sound doctrines of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching proper to true religion, should be recognized as both conceited and ignorant, a sick man in his passion for polemics and controversy. From these come envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions — in a word, the bickering of men with twisted minds who have lost all sense of truth."

Margaret M. Rudolph
Springwater Road
Conesus

EDITORS' NOTE: For the record: After receiving a handful of reader inquiries about the quote attributed to Sister Schoelles in Rochester's *Democrat and Chronicle*, we asked her about the matter. She said the quotation was erroneous and assured us that a crucifix — as well as representations of other "dead men" — does indeed adorn her office.

What will be ultimate consequence of 'prophetic recommendations?'

To the editors:

A discouraging aspect of the Synod's conclusions is its insistence to belabor the so-called "prophetic recommendations." To recommend that the Bishop petition the Pope to allow the ordination of women is obviously futile and essentially contentious in view of the Vatican's unequivocal position in dissuading further consideration of this issue.

What will be the "prophetic ramifications" of the Synod's position? Will dissent receive impetus? Will disunity within the Church be exacerbated? To what extent will loyalty and obedience to church authority and allegiance suf-

fer? If the Pontiff can be rebuffed, why not the Cardinal, the Bishop, the Pastor? Is the western culture's assertion of individualistic "rights" and affirmative action to countermand the Revelation of the male priesthood established by God — from the males of the tribe of Levi to Melchizadek to Christ? With a female representing the male Christ, how will the revisionists reinterpret "in persona Christi" and "hoc est enim corpus meum"?

Move over Protestants, make room for the neo-Catholics.

A. J. Annunziata
Holiday Drive
Horseheads

Not sure recommendation in paper was the same one he voted for

To the editors:

As I read Rob Cullivan's coverage of the General Synod in your October 7th *Catholic Courier*, I was surprised to find out that when I voted in favor of the second prophetic recommendation, I was actually voting in favor of allowing priests to marry. I don't think that's so.

The second prophetic recommendation urged that there be "a change in the present discipline of the Roman Rite restricting priestly ordination to celibates." To me this recommendation is

advocating a change in Church discipline so that married men may be ordained and not that ordained men may marry. It does not even imply that optional celibacy was being recommended.

Actually the first part of the recommendation, i.e., married men getting ordained is already happening. The second part, ordained men getting married, probably never will.

Father William J. Cosgrove
St. Dominic Church, Shortsville