

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

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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 original, signed 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 letters for length as well as legal concerns. With respect to errors in submitted text, we will correct spelling only. Anonymous letters and the use of pseudonyms are unacceptable.

Mail letters to: **Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624.** Please include your full name, phone number and complete address for verification purposes.

Germs are poor cause for skipping peace sign

To the editors:

"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

At Mass let us give each other the sign of peace either by a handshake or a gesture of peace.

Too many refuse to be a part of this beautiful Christ-inspired gesture of peace. The reasons given for not participating in this act in my judgment are weak to say the least.

Some say it spreads germs. Just about everything and everyone you touch is a germ carrier of one kind or another! Then, there are those who refuse to take part in this Christian act of brotherhood because of ill-feelings, grudges, and probably in some cases even because of hate for others. How sad! How terrible!!

Priests have been drinking from the same chalice for centuries in many churches at the celebration of the Mass. I have never heard of one case where they were ever contaminated with any kind of a disease!

For inner peace, peace in the family,



peace in the world it must begin within the heart of each one of us! Having done this true love will reign supreme. All we have to do is ask and we will receive! Remember, the command of Jesus, "LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I LOVE YOU."

Peace and love are germ free! If they were not, rest assured Jesus would never have commanded us to be at peace with

and to love one another — as we love ourselves and as He loves each one of us!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, PEACE AND LOVE BE WITH EACH ONE OF YOU!!

Francis J. Mastropietro
Clark Street
Auburn

Catholic church has only right view of sex

To the editors:

With all the multifarious sex education courses that have surfaced in the parochial and public schools the past 30 or so years, it is amusing to note that hardly anyone today really knows what sex is all about. The "sexperts" that have conducted these courses are simply grossly incompetent in this lofty field.

There is, in the final analysis, only one true view of sex and that is the Catholic view. The Catholic Church alone has the answer and any other method which deviates from it is a deviant and perverted method.

The teaching of the Catholic Church on sex is quite simple and does not require endless hours in a classroom. A few sentences would suffice. It should be added parenthetically here that the moral teachings of the Catholic Church are infallible and therefore not open to debate or discussion.

The marital act — its proper name — is to be performed only by validly married couples and always to be unhindered so as to make possible the transmission of life. Thus fornication, adultery, artificial contraception, abortion, sodomy, bestiality and other deviant be-

havior have always constituted mortal sins by those who commit them. And if gone unrepented will send those persons to Hell "where the fire dies not."

The marital act is primarily for the bringing of new children into the world to be prepared to spend eternity with their Heavenly Father in heaven. Woe unto them who prevent even one of these little ones from attaining this goal. St. Jean Marie Vianny said once to one of his fellow priests: "If only you knew how many mothers are in Hell because they refused to have children."

If there are true Catholic courses in this area that teach real Catholic morality, I would be interested in knowing so. I have not heard of any thus far. Chesterton once wrote quite succinctly that "Pigs are pigs." If these current sex education courses are to continue let them cease calling themselves Catholic courses. The illogically is too earth shattering for us who still, *Deo gratias*, have the *sensus Catholicus Fidei*.

Richard V. Hussar
Jordan Avenue, Rochester

Vouchers will not resolve problems, but will generate many regulations

To the editors:

Time Danaos et dona ferentes is not just poetic warning for the Trojans. It should be a red light for the happy-to-become parents who wish economic help towards private school tuition for their children. It may read now *Time leges et certificata ferentes*.

Proposition 174 (see *Catholic Courier*, Oct. 14: "Catholic schools brace for decision on choice") is not a statute creating vouchers, rather a hole punched into the California Constitution to make them viable, until an appeal to the Supreme Court of the land probably patches it up.

The best scenario would include legislative debate, compromises, and checks and balances to prevent the obvious proliferation of private "schools"

who would emerge to milk the golden cow. It would contain many regulations and limitations which private — especially church-affiliated — schools now fear. No wonder the See wants no part in that discussion.

Vouchers, of course, come from taxes, not from trees. The foreseen erosion of the public schools when the plan is enacted must be checked and prevented. How? More taxes, of course.

Vouchers are neither the only nor the best solution to improve education, regardless of who imparts it. But we have tried throwing more and more money into a Danaids' tun.

Enrique H. Miyares Jr., LL.D, PhD
Chili Avenue
Rochester

Disagrees with encouragement to 'get it over'

To the editors:

I don't agree with Michael J. Lehmann and his suggestion we "Just break away from Rome and get it over with," (*Catholic Courier*, Oct. 7, 1993).

St. Peter's successor resides in Rome. Even if some Catholics deviate from the Church's teachings it doesn't mean we

should also.

I don't mind being called an oddball if I remain loyal to the Church's teachings. Even when the dust settles, it's still my business.

Rena B. Camblin
Meadow Drive
Palmyra

Few back-alley deaths can't justify thousands of abortions

To the editors:

If abortion were legal 25 years ago many of the people we work with, many of the people we see every day wouldn't be around.

Can you really look a person in the face and say they'd be better off dead? Abortion pro-choice people really aren't pro-choice at all.

If the fetus could talk its choice would be to live. Instead of being pro-choice abortionists are really pro-abortion.

As far as pro-life people not being pro-life because of death from illegal back alley abortions, for every one woman who dies from a back alley abortion 1,000 potential infants die due to legal abortions.

John Nawrocki
Avenue C, Rochester