

OPINION COMMENTARY

Church laws are moral stop signs

Catholic Courier

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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 all 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, N.Y. 14624. Please include your full name, phone number and complete address for verification purposes.

To the editors:

I did not create God, his eternal truth, or even me.

Through logic, reason, and history God permitted me to become a Catholic as an adult and before marriage. For me it has nothing to do with "simple faith," it is objectivity.

God made a promise to Christ that the Holy Spirit would protect the Roman Catholic Church — through the Pope, Peter — on faith and morals. Individual and collective conscience cannot supersede the truths of God through personal desires, actions, et al as in polls or political correctness.

Individual and collective conscience willingly accept God's love, but not his justice. This puts God in the category of a very over indulgent parent who cannot believe his child committed whatever wrong. The millstone is quickly forgotten by the individual, as is the cross.

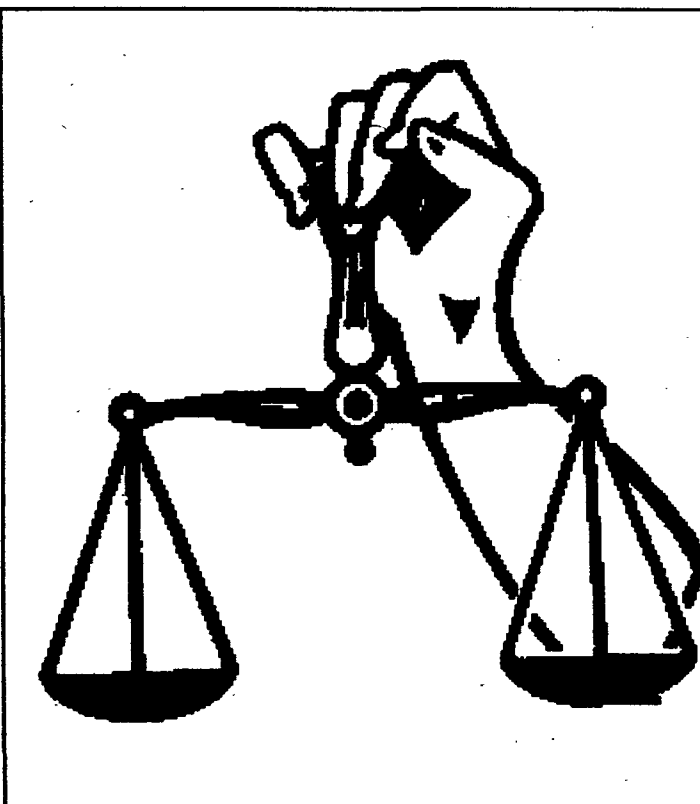
In whatever state of social and scientific advancement, should we expect anything to be easier than Christ lived? If all this wonderful advancement were so positive and serving God, why AIDS, drugs, homosexuality, abortions ad nauseum increase? Too many people are try-

ing to recreate God.

We obey stop signs and signals in order to drive a car for our own and others safety. These are secular laws.

The laws — moral — of the Roman Catholic Church are the stop signs of moral behavior.

In the secular world, you obey the road signs if you don't want a fine.



Those who keep kicking the morality of the Roman Catholic Church are not "kicking a dead horse." True story. A few days ago, a horse fell on a jockey during training. They could not get the jockey from under the horse which appeared to have suffered a heart attack. The horse or the jockey could not be moved. After several minutes the horse arose and ran off in fine shape. The jockey suffered a concussion and out of action — and important rides — for several days. A modern parable?

Anyone who states "the Catholic Church is more or less the one true church, depending on circumstances" should first define their definition of "Catholic." When I was an Episcopalian — amongst others — I used the word Catholic often.

Objectively I know I can't create a single blade of grass — and I am not going to try and reinvent God in my image or conscience — or anyone else's.

God does give the best to those who leave the choice to him.

Pax et bonum

Shirley F. Schuhart, OFM (Tertiary)
Whalen Road, Penfield

Why choose a dissenter for lecture?

To the editors:

Two hypotheticals to illustrate a point, and a comment.

One — Imagine if Judge A. Borshun of Privacy, Indiana was dismissed as a member of the ALCU — Americans Loyal to the Constitution Union — for his extreme and subjective interpretation and redefinition of constitutional law with consequent serious civil disruptions. It is unlikely that he would be invited as guest speaker for their seminar on "The Constitution's Original Intent."

Two — Imagine if Dr. U.R. Dodd of Senescent, Michigan was censured by the AMA and restricted in his practice of gerontology for his radical therapy and care — read disposition — of the seriously ill aged. It is safe to assume that he would not be selected as the feature speaker of a medical symposium on "The Love and Care of the Aged III."

Which brings us to the implementation of the diocesan Synod's theme regarding Catholic Moral Education. The adult Lenten Series on Conscience and Morals (began) locally on Feb. 20. To select as a principal speaker a controversial theologian, Rev. Charles Curran — judged by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith as neither



Father Charles Curran

File photo

suitable nor eligible to teach Catholic Theology — appears incongruous and inconsistent within its stated purpose.

Surely the diocese has a number of priests who are qualified to instruct the laity on Catholic Moral Doctrine and at the same time return participants to the local scene, as effected for the remaining topics in the Lenten series.

A.J. Annunziata
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Horseheads

Pro-life protesters lack criminal motive

To the editors:

Recently the Supreme Court ruled that abortion clinics may use a tough federal racketeering law to sue protesters who conspire to shut them down. Therefore, the federal government is free to use the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations or "RICO" Act against alleged terrorists. In the eyes of the unborn, the real terrorists are the abortion clinics themselves.

Also, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist ruled that the racketeering act does

not require that the accused have an economic motive. If this is the case, then they have admitted that there is no monetary gain for the pro-life protesters. But on the other hand, abortion clinics do not want to be shut down because their only motive is economic.

Anti-abortion protesters protest for one reason and one reason only and that is out of "love" for the unborn.

Dianna R. Ives
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Return to truths of 'real' catechism

To the editors:

"Try your own selves," writes St. Paul, "if you be in the Faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5). During the current confusing crisis in the Church, I can think of no better remedy than this, especially during this Lenten season.

Indeed, there is an interminable litany of "false prophets," spewing forth an endless issuance of "strange doctrines" (Hebrews 13:9), with nary an utterance of true Catholic doctrines. One hears the most abominable things these days from purportedly Catholic people, which reflects some very bad catechetics from some very bad and incompetent teachers. Hence the paramount importance that one receives and maintains the true Catholic Faith. For it was with all seriousness Our Blessed Lord warned that, "He who perseveres to the end will be saved."

During this Lent, let us begin to learn the real Catholic Faith with the real Catholic catechism, The Baltimore Catechism. These catechisms can be purchased from: Tan Books and Publishers, P.O. Box 424, Rockford, Illinois 61105. To persevere in this essential endeavor, it would be most prudent to obtain a blessed Rosary and say it every day to Our Blessed Lady, Seat of Wisdom. This latter method has always been employed by the saints and the Catholic laity to crush the enemies of the Faith into oblivion.

I say this with all earnestness because of the seriousness of the present situation in the world and in the Church. We can say with St. John with complete confidence, "Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that Antichrist cometh, even now there are become many Antichrists" (1 John 2:18). Indeed, it is even more applicable for us today.

Let us get back to the true Catholic Faith and let us begin this Lent. The Church has more than enough enemies within, it is about time She had a few more defenders of the Faith. Let us begin.

Richard V. Hussar
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