

OPINION COMMENTARY

Agency allowed to preserve image

Catholic Courier

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

Genesee Valley

Mike Latona

Southern Tier

Staff Photographer

S. John Wilkin

Photo Intern

Lauren McFalls

Business Department

Circulation Manager

Jeanne A. Morin

Office Manager

Mary DiPonzio

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 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 letter 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 am writing to you concerning the developing situation of United Way and Planned Parenthood.

Scott Peck once said that for evil to succeed it must take on the mask of respectability. I would propose that this embodies Planned Parenthood and its latest attempt to remain a part of United Way.

A June 1991 National Poll, commissioned by Planned Parenthood, found that 74 percent of the respondents had a "favorable impression" of Planned Parenthood. This survey gives the impression that Planned Parenthood desires, namely that it be above the messiness of the public policy debate on abortion and is merely a neutral organization, providing "services." As Barbara Kelly of Planned Parenthood states, this "service" provided by Planned Parenthood is the taking of the life of innocent, powerless, preborn children through abortion.

What this fails to convey is that 57 of Planned Parenthood's 169 affiliates performed over 129,000 abortions in 1990. Also, Planned Parenthood affiliates referred over 83,000 women for abortions to other clinics and hospitals. Plus, Planned Parenthood has been involved in most of the major cases that have struck down any legal protection of the preborn.

Planned Parenthood of Rochester wants to take on the air of respectability and I believe that we need to unmask Planned Parenthood for what it is, and to name the evil that Planned Parenthood is involved with. Why is it that Planned Parenthood wants to remain as a member agency of United Way? They wouldn't make this recent decision if they clearly didn't need United Way. They remain to continue their mask of respectability.

It is a trap to measure positive financial gain — support of good programs, of United Way — against a genuine moral evil — allowing Planned Parenthood to go on conducting "business as usual" with the outcome of a creeping com-

Dansville parish expresses gratitude for prayers, concern

To the editors:

Tragedy in a community always seems to bring all faiths much closer together. This was very evident in the case of the accident and eventual death of Father Andrew Teuschel, Pastor of St. Mary's Church here in Dansville.

The prayers and concern from all the other churches in Dansville were immediate. As with one voice, the people said, "We are praying for Father Andy, we wish him well and let us know if we can be of any help. We all love him as his own parishioners love him. He is a good and gentle person."

Upon his death, all the churches rang their bells in sorrow for the loss of a friend. Several of Dansville's ministers, with members of their congregations, joined their prayers with ours by attending his funeral.

St. Mary's parish says, "THANK YOU so much for your prayers and concern for Father Andy." I think all faiths here in Dansville were brought closer together by a good and gentle shepherd, Father Andy.

**The Parish Council
and People of St. Mary's Church
Dansville**



promise of the life the preborn and the woman that will also be damaged by these abortions. For in not respecting the fundamental right to life of the preborn, all the other rights or programs to support those rights, are hollow. This was not Planned Parenthood's original purpose. For they used to say in one of their earlier booklets: "abortion kills the life of a baby."

By United Way's failure to take stronger actions against Planned Parenthood, there is the impression given that building an abortion clinic in Rochester is not a serious qualitative jump by Planned Parenthood. Even

though there may be 30 preborn children killed every month in this abortion mill, United Way has offered little resistance to this, and our community contributes to this tragedy by allowing Planned Parenthood to be connected in any way as a United Way Agency.

It is my understanding that only 35 United Ways in the United States give money to Planned Parenthood and only five retain Planned Parenthood as a member agency. There is only one other of these that has an abortion mill. Rochester is clearly in the minority on United Way's supporting Planned Parenthood in its present way. Planned Parenthood would not make this latest move to be a so called donor option, if it did not further its own purpose. It is a start in the right direction but United Way is still acting as a vehicle, even if indirectly, to allow Planned Parenthood to continue, its "services," the destruction of the most fragile, vulnerable members of our community — the preborn.

**Father Jim Hewes
Newman Community of Genesee,
Genesee**

Planned Parenthood got special arrangement from United Way

To the editors:

Your page 4 article regarding the continuing boycott of United Way (*Catholic Courier*, March 31: "Pro-lifers continue United Way protest") requires some amplification.

Under the current agreement between United Way and Planned Parenthood of Rochester, Planned Parenthood has merely volunteered to forgo requests for general fund allocations for a two year period only. Thus, if Planned Parenthood's independent efforts to solicit funding through United Way's Donor Option program fall short of expectations, it can be safely anticipated that Planned Parenthood will return to the general fund allocation process in the future. As a Member Agency, they are fully entitled to do this.

What United Way has attempted, apparently to quiet public objections to their active participation in abortion funding, is to create a special accommodation for Planned Parenthood. In effect United Way has created yet another kind of agency, one in which Planned Parenthood has the option of having its cake and eating it too. Under the provisions of this special relationship, Planned Parenthood enjoys the use of the Donor Option program without paying any of the normal costs associated with it — indeed no costs whatsoever. One wonders if United Way would have made such an accommodation for, say, the Urban League?

United Way's real problem is that poll after poll clearly establishes that the

vast majority of Americans object to paying for abortions either through public funding (taxation) or private funding (charitable giving). By continuing to maintain Planned Parenthood as a Member Agency with full benefits and full access to services such as the Donor Option program — all at no cost to Planned Parenthood — United Way has defied public sentiment and has intimately associated itself with an affiliate of Planned Parenthood of Rochester and the Genesee Valley. This arrangement does not benefit United Way but provides considerable advantage to Planned Parenthood.

It is the position of Citizens for United Way Responsibility that United Way of Greater Rochester must reassign Planned Parenthood of Rochester and the Genesee Valley, Inc. to Designation Agency status. Lest it be forgotten, this was the original recommendation of the United Way Board in the fall of 1991. Under this established United Way program, Planned Parenthood would pay United Way for United Way services and Planned Parenthood would not have access to general fund dollars, not now, not in the future. It would also relegate Planned Parenthood to an existing agency program, rather than a new one apparently created for the purpose of deceiving United Way's constituents.

**George Madden
1995 coordinator
Citizens for United Way
Responsibility
Burwell Road, Rochester**

Thanks teacher for showing faith

To the editors:

I am compelled to write this letter because of the impact it has on me and my grandchildren — Laura, Margaret and Patrick. They all attend (St. Francis/St. Stephen's) Catholic School in Geneva, N.Y. One is in pre-school, one in second and one in fourth grade. Ms. June Brown is the second-grade teacher and Margaret is in her class.

One day we were riding in the car and I always have a pair of rosary beads in my ash tray; I don't smoke. Margaret picked up the beads and asked if we could say a rosary for Gramps. I thought she wanted me to say it but she started out on her own and said the Joyful Mystery. She knew all the mysteries and how to

start and end the rosary. She told me she knew all the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries by heart and everyday.

Ms. Brown and the students say a rosary everyday for different people and different reasons. Many thanks to Ms. Brown for letting her love for her Catholic faith be shared with the children teaches. If there was an award for a teacher who lives and shares her love for God with her students as Ms. Brown does — she would get my vote.

Congratulations Ms. Brown you may be the beginning of some child choosing the religious life as a vocation. God Bless You.

**Lottie Angelo
Waterloo**