

OPINION COMMENTARY

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 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.

United Way meets people's needs

To the editors:

For the past seventy-six years, United Way of Greater Rochester has demonstrated that as an organization of donors, what we achieve together is greater than what we could ever hope to accomplish alone. Together, we went over our ambitious campaign goal of \$36 million this year.

Together, we have been able to meet the needs of millions of people in need in our community — from the hungry and homeless, to people with disabilities. The young, the elderly and all ages in between.

Together, we have accomplished this because together we realize that in order to accomplish the greatest good, despite differing views, we must work a group rather than as a faction. That's why I'm so concerned about the irresponsible behavior of a group calling themselves "Citizens for United Way Responsibility."

The group ran a full page ad recently in the *Sunday Democrat & Chronicle*, falsely claiming that United Way dollars are used to fund abortions. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Let me repeat, in writing United Way does not fund abortions, and United Way never has funded abortions. Period.

Then on May 12, the *Catholic Courier* printed a letter to the editor from a representative of the group. The writer claimed that United Way created a spe-

Clarifying policy on building sales

To the editors:

In the recent article "Diocesan parishes put building to new uses" (*Catholic Courier*, May 12, 1994) mention was made of the procedures followed in church-owned property transactions. It was reported that in transactions involving the sale of church property — referred to in church law as "alienation" — "the bishop also consults with the diocesan Priests' Council".

In fact, in matters of alienation of property the bishop is required by canon law to involve the diocesan *consultors* (a group of priests chosen by the bishop from the Priests' Council to advise him in an array of matters) and the Diocesan Finance Council (locally known as the Diocesan Stewardship Council). This involvement is required when the transaction amount is contained within certain limits as specified by the appropriate episcopal conference (U.S.: between 500,000 and 3,000,000 dollars).

Parenthetically, if the amount involved in the sale of property was to exceed the maximum limit (3 million) the permission of the Holy See would also be required.

Father Kevin E. McKenna
Chancellor, Diocese of Rochester

Correction

A word was inadvertently changed in David J. Valone's letter "Council's documents promote teaching authority of the church" (May 5), altering the meaning of a sentence. The sentence should have read:

"The Council's description of the pilgrim church in no manner applies to the authority of the magisterium to teach doctrine and morals with certainty; it rather describes the state of all of us as we collectively and individually seek how to enact these truths while living in the very secular and selfish environment which is our world."

We regret the error.



cial accommodation for Planned Parenthood. The writer's claim is false. None of the 254 member agencies of United Way is treated differently.

In fact St. Joseph's Villa, an agency which provides mental health and support services to youth and families in our community, has a relationship with United Way identical to Planned Parenthood.

But here's the most disturbing thing: the misrepresentations of United Way's funding policies have been purposefully manipulated to hurt United Way's ability — the community's ability — to raise money for vital health and human ser-

vice programs in our area. Clearly, that is irresponsible.

It is irresponsible to reduce support to United Way and therefore to life-affirming agencies such as Catholic Family Center and School of the Holy Childhood. It is irresponsible to put United Way in the crossfire of the abortion debate because United Way does not fund abortions. If this group were truly interested in making progress, then they should carry the message to those who fund abortions. And that's not United Way.

Together, the vast majority of people in our community believe in United Way and in the 'united way of giving.' Together, we reject the 'us versus them' mentality, we reject the end justifies the means. Together, we work as a group to better the quality of life for all in our community.

Joseph G. Calabrese
President

United Way of Greater Rochester

Moral life column praised

To the editors:

As often as I read the *Catholic Courier*, I have an urge to write. Most time I want to say something in praise of your efforts, sometimes I want to offer a clarification on a topic being discussed and a few times I have wanted to invite someone to walk in the shoes of those whom they condemn.

I write now to praise you specifically for publishing Pat Schoelles' article on the moral life (*Courier*, 5/5/94). In it she gets to the heart of religious reflection: methodology. She lays out the moments in the process of right action and then proceeds to discuss them. Should one choose to debate a point or two with her, at least we know where we are in the discussion.

Methodology coupled with a sensitivity to the demands of religious language make for some very worthwhile discussions of our faith among believers. A lot of pain could be avoided were we to attend to these dimensions of discussions where we speak of things divine and human. In a highly technological world, many have lost the sensitivity of the hu-

manities and the arts and thus, although good-willed and very conscientious, treat religion and people's attempt to live religiously in a very commodity kind of way.

The only other ingredient I would add is a historical consciousness (as noted in Paul English's letter, 5/5/94). With such finely tuned awareness, we can speak not about the conclusions to which we have come but share with each other how we come to our conclusions about such matters as ordination of women, appropriate liturgy, living as a Christian in a pluralistic world. All the while of course, we would be getting a handle on the religious/political use of language in church teaching (e.g. the twists and turns involved in the question of female altar servers). Such sensitivities doesn't mean that we shall agree but it does invite us to appreciate the position of others with whom we respectfully disagree. Honesty and integrity will always mark our pilgrimage towards the One whose relationship with us in love alone defines truth.

Father David P. Reid, SS.CC.
St. Peter and Paul Church
720 W. Main St., Rochester

Urges interfaith Sarajevo peace pilgrimage

To the editors:

In your Diocesan news of May 5 you wrote about Peace Activist Jim Douglass who is attempting to persuade Pope John Paul II and the Serbian Patriarch, Pavle, to join Muslim and Jewish leaders in a pilgrimage to Sarajevo, where they would march in an interfaith parade past the city's religious sites. (The Pope could ride because of his leg injury.)

Douglass noted that Bosnia's muslim leader, Reis Ul-Ulema Mustafa Ceric, invited the world's religious leaders to come there. Douglass added "The Bosnians are looking to these leaders for understanding and aid because they have given up on any efforts by politicians."

Throughout the world there are so many wars being waged in the name of religion — a confusing concept. We need to remember Jesus' commandment, "love one another as I have loved you." In my parish, many have sent postal cards to President Clinton telling him that diplomacy and threats of armed intervention do not seem to be working and that we need to seek God's help. We asked that he promote a World Day of Prayer for reconciliation and peace. It certainly can do no harm. Fasting wouldn't hurt, either.

I urge readers to write to the Pope and/or Patriarch Pavle in support of an interfaith meeting in the former Yugoslavia, and to President Clinton in support of a World Day of Prayer. The addresses are: Pope John Paul II, c/o Roger

Cardinal Etchegary, President, Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, Piazza San Calisto, 16 Rome 00153, Italy.

His Holiness Patriarch Pavle, Archbishop of Pec, Metropolitan Belgrade, Karlovci UL, Sedmog Julaero BR. #5, Belgrade, Serbia, Yugoslavia.

President Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500.

Grace Carnes
Eagle Ridge Circle, Rochester

Mother Angelica shows congregations do grow

To the editors:

The book, "Women in the Vanishing Cloister," which was reviewed in the April 21st issue of the *Catholic Courier* does, indeed, paint a gloomy future for women's congregations. No doubt, the author, Helen Rose Fuchs Ebaugh, did not include Mother Angelica and her Sisters who run the Eternal Word Television Network at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Alabama. Too bad! She would have found a joyous, vibrant community of women which has been growing and which is breathing new life and spirituality into what has become a listless and "ordinary" Church.

There IS hope, after all!!!

Mary Lou Reifsnnyder
Mountain Rise, Fairport