

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.

Readers praise rosary cover story

Convert discovered comfort in prayers

To the editors:

I enjoyed reading "The Rosary" (in the) May 19 issue of the *Catholic Courier*.

After each Glory Be, the phrase "O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, especially those most in need of thy mercies" usually is recited.

Years ago I decided to become a Catholic. Some weekends I spent with my Godmother. Each evening, along with Monsignor Cirrincione, we would pray "The Family Rosary for Peace." I remain grateful to my Godmother for introducing the Rosary to me.

Father George Norton replaced Monsignor Cirrincione introducing the "Family Rosary for Peace" on the radio. He has such a beautiful voice. At one time he alternated with Sister Joan Sobala on "Good Morning God."

I had occasion to meet Father Norton two years ago when my brother-in-law was gravely ill at Genesee Hospital. Father Norton is Catholic Chaplain at the hospital. A very kind, considerate, compassionate man.

During May, it's customary for Daughters of St. Anne's, Palmyra, to have a "Living Rosary." The Cluster Parish (St. Anne's, Palmyra-St. Gregory's, Marion) are invited to participate. When completed, the church is aglow with candlelight.

Through the years, the Rosary has been to me, a source of consolation, gratitude and love. Congratulations Miss Brown, for teaching children the Rosary. Through Mary they will come closer to her Son Jesus.

Rena B. Camblin
Meadow Drive, Palmyra



Rosary offers daily way to counter evil

To the editors:

I want to express my thanks to all responsible, for the excellent article on "The Rosary," in the *Catholic Courier*, of May 19. The Rosary is an encounter with God, through Mary.

Much good has been gained by praying the Rosary — in past history. Wars were averted, conversions of thousands, and personal relief and help, to countless souls. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the Sacraments, the Rosary is the most powerful and important weapon in our lives, to combat the evils we encounter daily.

Mary asks us to pray the Rosary daily, and guarantees us wonderful results. The more you say the rosary, the easier it is, as in anything we do! Try it! You will like it!

Philomena Drexler
Wildbriar Road
Rochester

Booklet is highly recommended

To the editors:

Thank you for a beautiful cover and information about "The Rosary: A practical means to contemplate Christ's life" (*Catholic Courier*, May 19).

To study the many ways that God has given His blessings to this prayer is really a joy! "The Power of the Rosary" by Father Albert Shamon is a wonderful little booklet that I recommend — it's available from The Riehle Foundation, P.O. Box 7, Milford, Ohio 45150 (\$2.00)

The Rosary prayed daily in the family was part of my growing-up years and I believe we all were very blessed

by it. Praying in the family is not easy because of so many different ages, but I believe the Blessed Mother knows all families need this quiet time to reflect on the mysteries of our faith. It is such a little time of the day, 20 minutes, of prayer a day in the family, and it has the power to change the world!

Since we are urged to learn to read the Scriptures more, I have tried to use a reading from Scripture at the beginning of the Rosary. I believe it really helps in keeping the mind of God.

Marian Buchheit
Country Line Road
Webster

'New Age' philosophies pollute our faith

To the editors:

Our Savior, our Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ was born by the will of the Father through the Holy Spirit to a Jewish woman and unto the Jewish people and the world. He came to the Jewish nation because the Jews alone, of the ancient peoples, were the chosen people of the faith who best knew the true God and his commandments and desires for mankind. There are also many other reasons why God chose them and many reasons today why we need to study and learn from the Old Testament as well as from the New Testament. Jesus, himself, tells us we must take from

the old and the new (Matthew 13:52). Those who are growing in the knowledge and wisdom of God understand this.

I, for one, am sick at heart of all the New Age, Hinduistic rhetoric and thought which is polluting our Christian and Catholic people today. ... New Age philosophy is an opposite to the message of Jesus Christ as night is to day. New Age philosophy, with its Hindu roots, tries to bring together and please practically all people and all philosophies that exist on the face of the earth. It came out of an oppressed and conquered people trying to make

their own sense out of their confusion, appease others, and aided by unholy spirits. It is not life-giving as is evident in the destitution which prevails in India today. It took a Christian woman, moving under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to address the needs and attitudes of the Indian People.

Our knowledge of God — and good and evil — has been revealed through the Holy Spirit and does not come from created man. Our gospel cannot be dissolved, diluted or mixed with Hinduism, Buddhism, Feminism, Theosophy, Muslim Theology, etc.

To do so would be like the marriage of an Israelite and a heathen in the Old Testament. Anyone who thinks it can be mixed should read the Old Testament concerning what happens to those who marry idol worshippers. Also, most importantly, he needs to humbly seek the Holy Spirit and ask Him to reveal the truth.

Recall the words of St. Paul who would not be considered "politically correct" or "enlightened" by our secular society and new-age spiritualists but was a chosen vessel of God to bear witness to the truth:

"I am amazed that you are so soon deserting him who called you in accord with his gracious design in Christ, and are going over to another gospel. But there is no other. Some who wish to alter the gospel of Christ must have confused you. For even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel not in accord with the one we delivered to you, let a curse be upon him!" (Galatians 1:6-8).

Anne Bartholomew
Woodlyn Way, Penfield

New Yorkers need to organize effort to end child pornography

To the editors:

With an estimated 500,000 pedophiles living in the United States, it isn't surprising that child pornography is in great demand. After all, it is mainly pedophiles who create true child pornography using children. They do this for their own use as well as to exchange or sell the materials they produce. When this occurs, the children are doubly abused: at the time the films, videos, or pictures are made, and then again when others get turned on sexually by viewing the children being sexually abused.

Currently, the possession of Child Pornography is still legal in 20 of our states including New York State. It is illegal to produce and distribute child pornography in New York, however, it is still LEGAL to possess this material.

This law must be changed to protect our children from the pedophiles who have used this loophole in the law to escape arrest.

According to the U.S. Attorney General, there are about 350 child pornography magazines published in the U.S., and there are also about 4 million known child molesters in the U.S. We urge you to help pass this law which has been neglected for sometime now by calling or writing Mr. Joseph Lentol, New York State Assembly, Room 632, Albany, NY 12248. Phone (212)349-5001.

Please help our most precious possessions — our children!

Mrs. Joyce Cavanaugh
Director of CAN DO
P.O. Box 1291, Auburn

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