

# OPINION COMMENTARY

## 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.



File photo  
Father Gerald E. Dunn (left) helps Deacon Anthony J. Caruso with his stole and dalmatic during permanent deacon ordinations at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral June 11.

## Ordinations bring joy, sorrow over gifts lost

### To the editors:

A few years ago, I attended the celebration of priestly and diaconal ordinations in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. It was a joyous event as three young men whom I had known and prayed for entered the presbyterial service of God's people, and several men were ordained to render service as deacons. I'll never forget that afternoon in the Cathedral as I recognized the wife of one of the new deacons; she was a dear friend from college days with whom I had lost touch over the years! On her face was a smile of real joy for her husband. In her eyes, almost imperceptible, were sad tears as well.

That is when it struck me. They had prepared together for the day when one of them was to be commissioned to serve as deacon. Both studied at St. Bernard's. Both took turns taking care of their young children and did their jobs. Both read many, many books and articles, participated in lectures and discussions, prayed often and earnestly for the Church, the People of God whom we all have been called to service.

That day, after the Gospel and homily, her husband stepped out of the pew and walked forward alone to be ordained deacon. While she was joyful for her husband, she admitted that it was painful for her. The irony was quite clear. She was not the first deacon's wife to express such feelings to me.

A few years earlier, I attended the ordination of another friend. It was again a joyous and prayerful occasion. Family and friends were there to pray and celebrate the beginning of a commission to serve, pray, preach and bring a

pastoral presence to those in need. Sadness struck me then, as well, as I drove home. My friend had chosen to turn to the American Baptist Church to pursue the type of service to which she believes God has called her.

Not all women are called to ordination. This much is clear. Many women will tell you that they have not the slightest interest in ordination. So, by the way, will many men. But to say that not all women are called to serve as presbyters is quite different from saying that all women are NOT called.

The Pope has now declared that women are not ALLOWED to be ordained in the Roman Catholic Church. The article in the *Catholic Courier* of June 9 covering his letter was balanced and helpful. I could not help but experience the same mix of joy sadness as above — and wonder if there is not a typesetter in your midst with an ironic bent — when I read the announcement directly beneath it, "Ordination set for diaconate."

A portly and decidedly nasty nun I saw on television the other night stated that those who do not agree with the way things are in the Church should leave. Does she speak in the name of Christ? Sadly, the Church has already lost many women, and not solely over the ordination issue. Once again I am saddened because I know that the Church is bigger than that ... I will miss what these women — and many men as well — can and should be offering the Church as Catholics. And I'll pray for the day that their gifts will be allowed.

**Father Paul F. English, CSB**  
East Avenue, Rochester

## War is hell, but he's glad he fought

### To the editors:

In answer to Mark Scibilia-Carver's letters, I agree with you Mark, war is terrible and I hope someday there will be no more wars. June 6th of this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion and I have to say I was proud to serve as a member of the Armed Forces that took part in this invasion and I am also proud to have served in the Armed Forces that invaded Southern France.

I am proud to have served with all of those who gave their lives and those who suffered injuries in both of these invasions because these actions were a step

toward freeing the European nations from the yoke of Nazism, freeing all of the peoples that were in the Death Camps and Concentration Camps.

Mark, on the Sixth Sunday of Easter we read in John's Gospel the following: "There is no greater love than this: To lay down one's life for one's friend." We are all sons and daughters of God the father, Brothers and Sisters of Jesus. This makes all of us here in this world even closer than just friends. We can not possibly love our brothers and sisters if we ignore their plight.

**Vic Yanaitis**  
Harpington Drive, Rochester

## Applaud choice of theologian as new columnist

### To the editors:

Congratulations on your choice of Dr. Patricia Schoelles as a columnist for the *Catholic Courier*. Dr. Schoelles is eminently qualified as an educator and moral theologian, with the practical background and experience that can speak to the people of our time about moral values on the level of everyday life.

We are especially pleased to have a woman columnist bringing her perspective to our Catholic paper. Many of us, we daresay a large percentage of your readers, appreciate hearing a woman's point of view which complements the view of your columnists who are men.

We look forward to hearing regularly from Dr. Schoelles. She has much to say to your readership, living as we do in these days of weakened moral values.

**Sister Kathleen Milliken, RSM**  
**Sister Patricia MacDonald, RSM**  
Glen Ellyn Way, Rochester

## Banning abortion is solution to protests

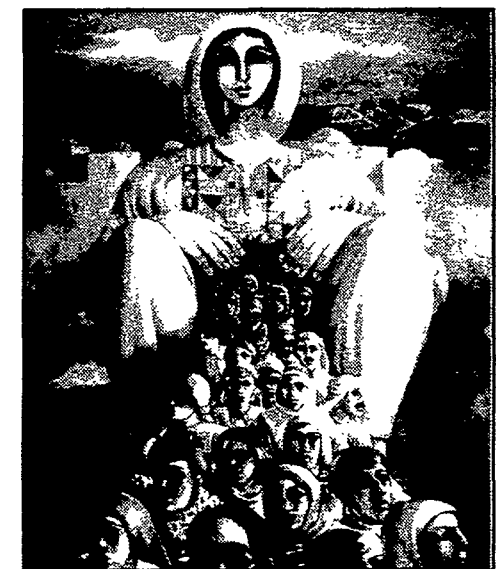
### To the editors:

The law recently signed by President Clinton that makes it a federal crime to block access to abortion clinics is not the solution to the problem of stopping pro-life intervention at the clinics.

The threatening of abortion clinic employees, the bombing of clinics and the murder of an abortion provider, Dr. Gunn would never have taken place if abortion had not been legalized.

The only solution is to, once again, make abortion illegal, which would stop the killing of the unborn, therefore eliminating the need for abortion clinics altogether.

**Dianna Richmond Ives**  
Simpson Road, Rochester



## Appreciated coverage of nonviolence speaker

### To the editors:

Thank you for your extensive coverage of Jim Douglass' visit to St. Bernard's and an ambitious follow-up article on the nonviolent teachings his work embodies (*Catholic Courier*, May 12: "Activist stresses Christ's vision of peace, justice").

Too few Catholics are schooled in the principles of Christian nonviolence, particularly in the role of nonviolence as the root of spirituality, that identifies us with Jesus.

The promotion of Christian nonviolence is essential if we hope to promote morality that is a foundation for faith lived in community.

Pax Christi is needed to awaken us to the work of peace in our time.

**Matthew Carney**  
Walnut Street, Corning