

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.



One view must be wrong on question of ordination

To the editors:

"O Father most holy, protect them with your name which you have given me that they may be one, even as we are one" (Christ's prayer for his disciples; John 17:11). "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us..." (Christ's prayer for all believers; John 17:21).

Jesus was one with the Father in the most perfect way possible. He lived out the will of the Father continuously, in every detail, without complaint or dissent no matter what emotional, spiritual or physical consequences it had for him; even unto death on a cross.

By doing the will of the Father we will become one as Christ prayed in his beautiful prayer to the Father (John 17). We do the will of the Father when we obey His commandments which come to us continually — and even in 1994 —

Embarrassed by link to form of gambling

To the editors:

In his letter to the *Courier* on June 16, Roger Vince, M.D., was outraged that St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua was allowing people to smoke while playing bingo. Besides the health factor, he was upset that a church would encourage people to smoke, to play on a person's addiction for monetary gain. He felt it was morally indefensible.

Minus the health factor, the same could be said about bingo itself. It is a form of gambling and I have always been embarrassed that it has such a large connection with the Roman Catholic Church. Gambling, games of chance, should never be affiliated with a church in any form whatsoever.

Sandra Rass
Ballou Road, Owego

through the teaching authority bestowed on the Church by Christ; which includes the interpretation and safe keeping of Holy Scripture and the passing on of Apostolic tradition!

If the will of the Father comes to us through the teaching authority of the Catholic Church, how can we possibly become "one with the Father" when many Catholics — both laity and clergy alike — continually pick and choose those teachings that they will or will not accept. This problem comes through loud and clear in recent letters to the *Courier* regarding women's ordination. After the Pope clarified once and for all the Church's teaching on women's ordination stating that it must be "definitively held by all the church's faithful," Father Paul English challenges that teaching in his June 23 letter by appealing to our emotions — not our intellects — and leads us to the conclusion that the Church is incorrect.

Whether or not we are willing to admit it, only one of the positions on this issue could possibly represent the will of God. This should be clear to us since by using our intellects — and not our emotions — we can clearly see that God could not and would not guide his Church to teach one thing while at the same time be guiding others to promote something exactly the opposite. One of the two positions on this issue must therefore be based on faulty reasoning.

If we are to become one with the Father, as Christ prayed in John 17, it is clear that we are called to do the will of God. The next logical question that we must ask ourselves is the following: Which position presented on this issue represents the will of God? Is it the position held by the Church, as stated clearly and definitively by the Pope or is it the opinion of others who rely heavily on their emotions to guide their decisions?

Michael Gallagher
West Church Street, Fairport

Daily-press distortion explained by article

To the editors:

Kudos to Rob Cullivan for his lead article "Does the U.N. want to hear Holy See at upcoming meeting on population?" (June 30). It helps to account for the specter of Cairo that seems to distort some news articles in the public press.

For example, a front-page story (June 15) in the prestigious *New York Times* says that the Pope had convened the cardinals on June 13 "to discuss preparations for Christianity's second millennium." Not so, for that millennium has already been with us for a long time.

The accompanying three-column photo, the *Times* explains, shows the Pope and cardinals assembled on June 13 "to discuss world population strategies." Again, not so, for the Pope had convened the cardinals to discuss proposals to mark the end of the second millennium as the church approaches the year 2,000.

The specter of the forthcoming United Nations population conference in Cairo, which incorrectly influenced the photo identification, probably also accounts for the inflammatory and unwarranted headline to that story in the *Times*: "Vatican Fights Plan to Bolster Role of Women."

Such a mishmash of news and distortions ill becomes the venerable epigraph of the *Times*: "All the News That's Fit to Print."

E. Leo McMannus
Sail Pointe Circle
Venice, Fla.



Inquires about new church art

To the editors:

Thank you for the fascinating article by Father Robert McNamara on the 15th-century statue of Mary at St. Michael's Church in Lyons (*Catholic Courier*, June 16: "Lyons parish houses one of diocese's treasures"). I look forward to reading more such articles by Father McNamara.

Is there good art that has been commissioned for churches in our diocese since Vatican II?

Sheryl B. Zabel
Lyndon Road, Fairport

EDITORS' NOTE: We're sure Father McNamara will have a few suggestions in response to this inquiry. But would any readers like to nominate a recent artwork of which they're especially fond?