

# 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 letters 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.



## Put love to work to aid Rwandans

### To the editors:

Last year no one ever heard of the word Rwanda. Today it is splashed on the TV screens and front pages all across the world. What we see and hear is death by massacre, starvation, thirst, cholera — needlessly! The cause being the avarice urge for power and control by a ruthless segment of Rwanda. Some other nations are just as bad!

How can this happen in what we call this modern age of the 20th century? In my opinion I believe the answer is the second and most important commandment is not being practiced and obeyed as given to us by Jesus before ascending

into heaven: "Love one another as I have loved you."

To love is to give!!

Let's put love to work!!

Better late than never to give and give right now to the Rochester Diocesan Rwanda Relief Drive. Either mail in your "Healthy" contribution or give in the collection at Sunday's Mass. If you may decide to mail in your help now do so by writing the Rwanda Relief Drive, Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624, or to your parish rectory.

Let us help these poor people with our help now and stop the needless

deaths of about 1,500 daily in a field of "no where" filled with the stench of dead bodies strewn about like bails of hay and thrust into communal graves like trash at a city dumps. HUMAN-DEAD-TRASH. HOW SAD!!!

Friends, give and let it be the biggest contribution you ever gave to a charitable cause. Do so right now and help these poor dying men, women and children live in dignity and good health like our children. Finally, remember our homeless and suffering also!!

**Francis J. Mastropietro**  
Clark St  
Auburn

## 'Roe' daughter's attitude provides lesson

### To the editors:

Two decades after the landmark 1973 Supreme Court *Roe vs. Wade* ruling that legalized abortion, plaintiff Norma McCorvey has stopped dodging the past by writing an autobiography about her life as Jane Roe.

Norma McCorvey claimed a rape led to the Roe pregnancy because she thought that was the only way to get an abortion. In truth, it began with an affair with a professional gambler. Although the Roe case won women the right to an abortion, Ms. McCorvey had already given birth by the time it was resolved. She gave up the baby for adoption. She further said that she does not know two of her three daughters; the second child she bore after a fling with a hospital or-

derly; and the third child, the Roe baby.

In March, I attended a workshop at St. Mary's Hospital whose guest speaker was Dr. Vincent Rue. He is the Director of the Institute for Abortion Recovery and Research located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Dr. Vincent Rue, along with his wife, counsel women who need healing and understanding after an abortion. He touched upon many aspects of post-abortion trauma as well as discussing the *Roe vs. Wade* law that legalized abortion. He mentioned that Norma McCorvey had lied about her pregnancy and claimed that she had been raped in order to obtain an abortion. Also, Dr. Rue said that Ms. McCorvey had contacted her third daughter (the Roe baby), but her daugh-

ter will not establish a relationship with Ms. McCorvey (her biological mother) due to the fact that she originally intended to have her aborted.

Ms. McCorvey expressed that of "all her many sorrows, not knowing her daughter is without a doubt the worst."

**Dianna Richmond Ives**  
Simpson Road  
Rochester

## Beseech cardinals to keep priesthood as instituted today

### To the editors:

Your correspondent's letter (*Catholic Courier*, July 7: "Honor women by appointing one a cardinal") urging the Church to appoint a woman as a cardinal shows why we must keep abreast with the teachings of our faith.

According to the new code of Canon Law only an ordained priest may be raised to the order of cardinal (351).

I urge all concerned Catholics to write to the Sacred College in Rome, urging them to retain the priesthood as instituted.

This is the next area to be attacked — read the last few issues of *America* — and when it hits the general faithful, it will cause much confusion and loss of faith.

Women are in prominent positions, as witness Helen Alvare and Dolores Leckey.

**Jan Fredericks**  
Birr Street  
Rochester

## Column created more confusion than reader previously suffered

### To the editors:

Before I read Dr. Patricia Schoelles' column "Abstract norms must move to real actions" I was reasonably sure that church teaching was against the death penalty. But now I learn that it makes a difference whether that conclusion is in "abstraction" or, apparently more appropriately, the product of some "concrete application."

As a practical matter how do I respond, as a member of a jury panel, to the question whether I am opposed to capital punishment? Or, if New York has some kind of referendum on the death penalty, do I vote yes or no? As these

questions are not really asked in the abstract, must I respond that my answer depends on the concrete application of the situation?

With due respect to Dr. Schoelles, my concern is what is the wisdom of writing a column for lay readers that offers them little, if any, assistance in making real life decisions. Doesn't one have to be a moral theologian to do an analysis involving "concrete application?" The column really compounded the complexity of the subject for me.

**Tom Kleman**  
Stark Street  
Waterloo