

# OPINION COMMENTARY

## Catholic Courier

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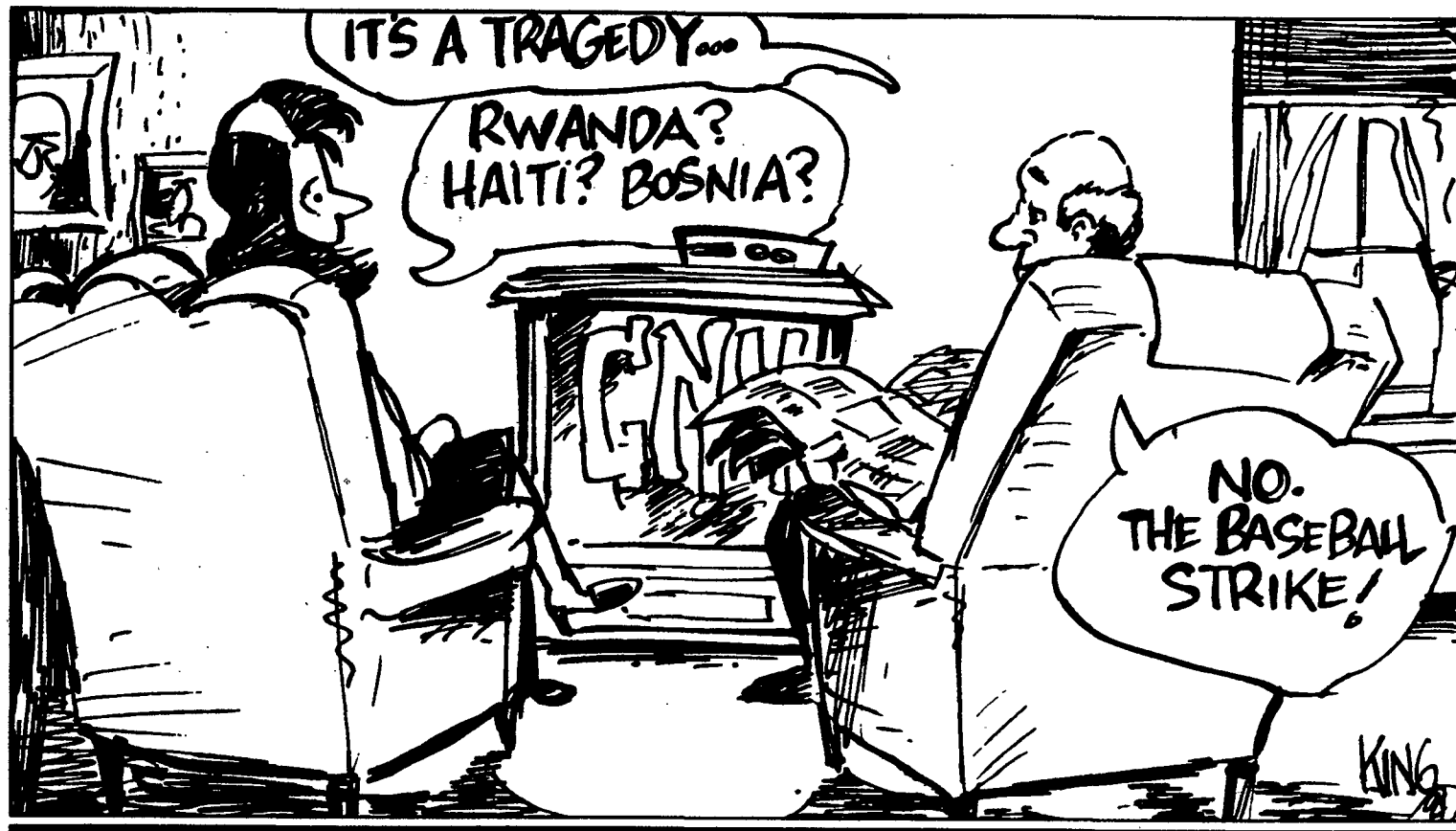
### Letters Policy

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



## True Christians cannot hate Jews

### To the editors:

Prejudice is one of the most pernicious evils prevalent in this wonderful country. It manifests itself through bias, discrimination, injustice and hatred toward others because of their nationality, race, religion, sex, etc.

The one I want to focus on is anti-Semitism.

If we are sincere Christians trying to live out our faith, we must love the Jews — indeed, we must love and respect all people because each person is created in the image and likeness of God.

— Yahweh in the Old Testament was the name that the Hebrews gave for God, and Yahweh loved the Hebrews as His chosen people and He still loves them to-

day.

According to Christian belief, Christ is the Son of Yahweh, and Christ was raised as a devout Hebrew fulfilling all the requirements of the Mosaic law known as the Torah. Mary and Joseph were Jews as were all of the apostles and most of the early disciples.

How grateful we gentiles should be that Christ opened the doors and allowed us to become the chosen people in the New Covenant! As St. Paul says, we were grafted onto the root that was previously planted (Romans 11:17-18).

By what insane logic then, could a Christian ever hate the Jews? Perhaps the haters blame them for killing God's Son — but in reality, we all played our

unique role in that shame. Perhaps the hatred stems from envy of the success obtained by many of the Jewish people through hard work and God's blessing. Or perhaps they are hated for stubbornly refusing to accept the arrival of the Messiah in the person of Christ — but this should, if anything, evoke our pity or sorrow for them and elicit prayers for their conversion rather than hatred.

If you hate the Jews, for whatever reason, then you can no longer claim to be a Christian because our central tenet is love of God and love of neighbor.

And one final thought — without the Jews, there would be no Christians!

**Jerry Paladino**  
Route 14, Rock Stream, N.Y.

## Life ethic demands both charity, justice

### To the editors:

Father Brian Hehir, counsel to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, spoke in Rochester in 1990 on the Consistent Life Ethic. He recalled how he was asked by a reporter, "Are you guys radical Right or radical Left?"

The answer is Yes. The wider civil society cannot help but admire the fierce moral independence of the Church's Consistent Life Ethic, the ethic that is both radical Right and radical Left all at once.

"Radical" or extreme, is substantive to the Consistent Life ethic. Radical gets to the root. It is the cry for justice, the prophetic voice of the Church that says a strong unequivocal "NO" to the taking of human life whether in abortion, war, capital punishment or euthanasia.

This is different from the Church's pastoral role, the role of charity that counsels and ministers to those in pain. Charity and justice are complementary. The coexist.

But charity cannot be a replacement

for justice, as a *Courier* columnist recently suggested. It was argued (*Courier - The Moral Life* June 2: "Life ethic calls for committing resources") that since justice for the unborn has not been achieved, we should therefore put our efforts toward helping pregnant women through our outreach ministries.

Consistent life ethic requires us to do both. It's not either/or, but rather both/and. Doing charity is not a substitute for the Church's failed attempts to do justice.

For instance, the Church's lobbying efforts have done little to alleviate the spread of war and the escalation of capital punishment. However, our continued attempts cannot be lessened by statements that we should therefore focus on giving food to war victims, or counseling death row inmates. The point is, we should do both and do both equally well. But do we?

*The New York Times* recently reported that Catholic Charities is second only to the U.S. Government in its outreach ministries to the poor and disenfranchised. Charity feels good. We can dry the tears of people in pain. We can count the numbers of people in the soup kitchen lines. We can see people smile.

But the justice voice of consistent life ethic is not as popular. It calls us to see legislators and people in power who will make us Catholics feel uncomfortable. Worse still we may be called "judgmental" or "self-righteous."

The challenge before us in Rochester is to not retreat from our prophetic mission, but to bring justice more and more into a balance with charity. This is the consistent life ethic.

**Carol Crossed**  
Pickwick Drive, Rochester

## Suggest president devise plan including options on abortion

### To the editors:

We are retired senior citizens and have some thoughts pertaining to abortion and the proposed National Health Care Plans.

Since various groups do not favor abortion, why not consider one of the following:

A). DO NOT include abortion in the National Health Care Plan, but offer an "ABORTION RIDER" to be paid by those who are pro-abortion or pro-choice as an extra premium.

or B). INCLUDE abortion in the National Health Care Plan, but offer a REDUCED PREMIUM for those who are anti-abortion or pro-life.

We feel either of the above will reduce the tension generated by this issue. However, as the old saying teaching, "evil sets in when good persons do nothing." Everyone who has a strong feeling on this issue, should phone or write The President and Mrs. Clinton, our two N.Y.

Senators, and our upstate members of the House of Representatives.

**Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Butkowsky**  
Salmon Run, Hilton

## Sad day for church when attorney attacks bishop

### To the editors:

Regarding the article "Female altar servers" (July 21), a Mr. Argentieri is quoted as saying "Bishops like Matthew Clark figure they can do whatever the heck they want." Apparently, attorneys like Mr. Argentieri figure they can say whatever the heck they want.

I say it's a sad day for our church when a lawyer feels qualified to second-guess the prayerful decisions of the Bishop of our Diocese, especially in such a rude manner.

**Katherine McGuire**  
Seneca Parkway, Rochester