

# OPINION COMMENTARY

## Catholic Courier

1150 Buffalo Road  
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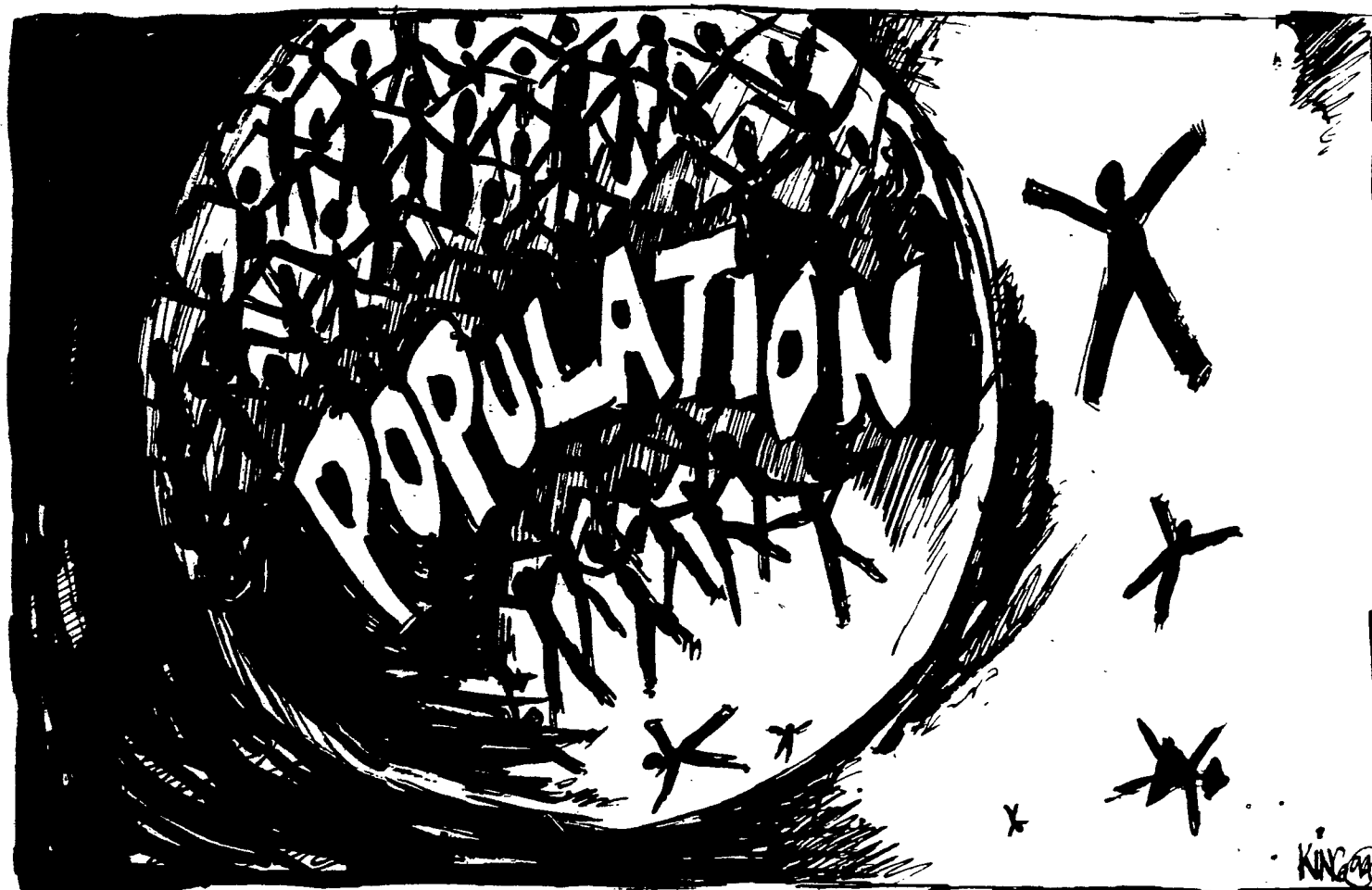
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### Letters Policy

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.



## Education without values leads to moral confusion

### To the editors:

Our Consistent Life Ethic which is addressing the whole spectrum of life from the moment of conception to natural death would have to be rooted — to educate.

To educate without a system of values based on truth would be abandoning our youth to moral confusion, to individual insecurity and to easy manipulation.

Today, many teachers are not teaching the faith as understood by the Holy See. The Magisterium is the custodian of the church so she has no authority to change truth.

It is not so much uniting hands at Holy Mass as it is in uniting hearts to be of one mind. Remember many seminaries had no textbooks throughout the world but taught with duplicated notes from professors. Just the very thought that a typewritten sheet is given those seminarians reminds them there is nothing universal, or traditional or unchangeable about what they are learning.

We have made fun of and cast aside our basic truths. Hopefully the prediction of Fatima can be fulfilled through the teachings of the new catholicism. Let us pray that it will be ac-

cepted by all and taught by them.

All of us should be focusing on Blessed Virgin Mother because we are at the beginning of the battle of the Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart and no layperson, no nun, no Priest, no Bishop and no Cardinal will be able to stop it.

It is a sad state to over-emphasize the Eucharist without the sacrament of Confession first. Wouldn't there have to be an order to Christ's plan of salvation? The baby has to learn how to crawl before he or she can learn how to walk.

Not to love the Holy Father and our Church teachings is not to love Truth because without love there is no Truth.

This year 1994, the year of the family. I hope it will not become the year of the non-family now that Rochester has become a haven for active homosexuals on the East Coast. This domestic partners is an open attack on the family. If every priest throughout this country would offer each month a Mass for the sin of abortion, abortion would be out of this country.

**Bernice Kleinhammer**  
Laurelton Road  
Rochester

## Minority group wants church to suit own needs

### To the editors:

In response to C. Michael Reimringer's letter, "Can't assent to teaching on women," this letter was a perfect example of the minority liberal faction in the United States Catholic Church, that constantly tries to change the church to suit what they feel are their needs or the needs of the church as they see them. They all too often fail to see the larger ramifications these ideas will hold.

From a financial aspect, I would like to know where Mr. Reimringer would expect the local parishes to come up with the funds to support married priests and spouses and children. That would mean parish money for housing, medical care, food, clothes, etc. A great many parishes are struggling every year just to keep the doors of their parish school open!

From a priestly dedication standpoint, what happens when the following situation arises: You're a married priest. Your spouse is out of town visiting Aunt Martha. It's 3:00 in the morning (and) you're tending to a sick young child. All of a sudden, the phone rings in the rectory. There's been a terrible car accident involving some teenage parishioners. You're needed at the emergency room of the hospital. Is your own sick child your first concern or is the well being of your parishioners your first concern?

Since the shortages of priests is confined almost entirely to the United States of America, which is only a small part of the universal Roman Catholic Church, that argument really doesn't hold enough substance to convince a great many of us in the silent majority that we should have women and married priest. Especially when priestly vocations are thriving in a great many countries! It seems to me that the logical response to the shortage would be a larger dedicated effort in the United States to priestly vocations.

In closing I would like to remind Mr. Reimringer and the members of C.O.R.P.U.S. that ordination to the priesthood is a sacrament of the Catholic Church. That falls under faith morals and doctrine, which are the areas where we Catholics believe in the infallibility of the papacy.

**Alan Rector**  
Flower City Park  
Rochester

## Prison too good for murderers

### To the editors:

In a letter (8/18/94) to the *Catholic Courier* (Aug. 18: "Bishops state: "Death is never the answer"), the policy of the Bishops of the New York Catholic Conference regarding capital punishment was supported by Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities and Rev. Michael J. Bausch, chairman of Diocesan Public Policy Committee.

This policy opposed the death penalty as an "affront to the human dignity of both those on whom it is inflicted and those in whose name it is employed."

No mention of course is made of those people killed in prisons or in society by murderers paroled from prison.

Charles E. Rice in his article "The legitimacy and prudence of capital punishment" that appeared in the Aug. 25th issue of the *Catholic* weekly newspaper,

*The Wanderer*, refers to St. Thomas Aquinas.

He quotes St. Thomas: "... the common good, requires that some pestiferous men be removed from the community by execution."

Another point in Mr. Rice's article is that by punishing murder by imprisonment like other crimes such as embezzlement, "devalues innocent life".

This fact was related by former New York Mayor Ed Koch when he mentioned that a criminal serving two life sentences for two murders killed a prison guard. The murderer received a third life sentence.

Capital punishment would have saved at least one life — an innocent human life.

**Robert Bart**  
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