

# 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.

## Put values into action by helping at house

### To the editors:

We write this letter to you in honor of Respect Life month, and on behalf of a very large family. We are Melita House, an inner city residence which would be otherwise homeless. Our numbers have far surpassed the 300 mark in our near 15 year history. For that we owe a debt of gratitude to so many who have diligently and lovingly made this "respect life" ministry a reality. It is in keeping with the Diocese's second Synod priority, The Consistent Life Ethic, that we offer both a thank you and an invitation to all those who believe in the importance of respecting life.

We are people who are in a direct service ministry to women who have made the decision to choose life by continuing their pregnancies. Often times this means they are kicked out of their homes by parents, grandparents, boyfriends, etc. When young women come to our doors they usually have very little in the way of support, clothing, nutritional skills, prenatal care, etc. Though the future implications of their "choice" are not always clear to them, they are very aware that the road ahead will be anything but easy.

Enter our donors — people in the community from every walk of life and faith background — men, women, families, college freshmen, doctors, lawyers, even kids! They gather around each woman, each unborn child and walk with them during their time at Melita. How do they do this? People send us checks on a monthly basis; they participate in our After Care Companionship program; they volunteer to housesit once or twice a month; they bring dinner to our residents and eat with us; they donate clothing, furniture, food; and on and on. People who are committed to respecting life put their faith into action



on a daily basis around here, essentially surrounding each resident and child by their care for this ministry.

We are the people who staff Melita House, but you are the people who really make it come to life. And so our hearts and thanks go out to YOU this October 1994 — Respect Life Month. Thank you for your time, your prayers, your financial support. A special note to those who make the annual Respect Life Grant possible. We are grateful recipients of this grant as well as some others in the community.

And now my invitation: Are you looking for a way to put your own pro-life convictions into action? Have you been searching for an opportunity to concretely express your faith commitment? It seems so many people are today. We'd like to invite you to consider Melita House as a chance to do just that. We invite you to be a companion to a young parenting woman and her child, or to make a much needed donation of food, meat, or personal care products, or to volunteer to housesit once a month. Call us. We welcome any inquiries.

In closing I would just like to say that it is one thing to say we respect life. It is another to put that statement into de-

finite action. To all of our Melita extended family who have in word and deed done just that — a sincere thank you. Our appreciation can only be measured in full by the smiles on the faces of every child born here who might not have had a chance to live. That says it all.

**The Staff of Melita House:**  
**Michele Hannagan; Peggy Block;**  
**Sr. Anne Curtis, RSM; Val**  
**Muscarella; Carmen Quinones; Jan**  
**Ashley; and Jennifer Hill**

## Urges adopting model offered by St. Monica's

### To the editors:

I want to commend the efforts of the Staff of St. Monica's school in adopting the very successful principles of Holy Angels' School in Chicago (see *Catholic Courier*, Aug. 11 Education Supplement: "St. Monica program focuses on responsibility"). It is very encouraging to see such vision which involves risk and challenge and which is filled with potential.

One wonders why such principles are not the accepted ones for all the schools in the Roman Catholic Diocese. The strength and gift we can offer the larger community is our faith-centered education. Our schools are not private alternatives to the Public System, but are Christian schools of wholistic development. Such development happens best, I believe, when home, school and Church are working in partnership.

May the efforts of St. Monica's School grow and spread.

**Father Kevin P. Murphy**  
**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
**Floverton Street, Rochester**

## Reader finds Gehrig photo to be a 'flop'

### To the editors:

Was it accidental or have you uncovered a previously kept news secret?

In the Sept. 15 edition of the *Courier* on Page 20, a photo identified as baseball great Lou Gehrig showed him in the batting stance of a right-handed hitter.

As all NY Yankee fans and many others know, Lou Gehrig was one of the greatest left-handed batters of all time!

*The Sporting News*, to whom the photo is credited, might have an interesting explanation for the right-handed stance.

Otherwise — tsk, tsk, tsk!

**Al Bergeron**  
**Alberta Drive**  
**Penfield**

**EDITORS' NOTE:** The *Catholic Courier's* standing policy forbids alteration of photographs in any way unless they will be designated clearly as photo illustrations. Thus we printed the Gehrig photo exactly as it was submitted to us by WXXI-TV. We now suspect that the original photograph may have been "flopped" in error by the agency that duplicated it for the Public Broadcasting System.



**Sporting News**

**The original photo probably showed Lou Gehrig batting left-handed.**

## Gore's past views are catching up with him

### To the editors:

At the recent U.N. conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, Egypt (Sept. 5-13), Vice President Al Gore expressed his opposition with Pope John Paul II and the Roman Catholic Church in regards to abortion.

It is interesting to note that in the early 1980s, when Mr. Gore was a young politician running for his first term as a U.S. Senator, he was asked where he stood on the abortion issue. He responded that while sitting in his chair one day, his two-year-old son came up to him and pointed to the cover a recent *Life* magazine lying on the table alongside his chair and it happened to be an

issue that had a full-size cover picture of a fetus in the womb. His two-year-old son pointed at the picture and said "Baby, baby." Gore said that "he figured that if a two-year-old can figure it out, we sure ought to be able to."

Whatever the excuse he has for turning his back on the unborn can only be answered by him and personally, we really don't need to know the Gore(y) details.

The truth of the matter is that Vice President Al Gore's real problem is that the past has finally caught up with him.

**Dianna Richmond Ives**  
**Simpson Road**  
**Rochester**