

OPINION  
**COMMENTARY**

**Catholic Courier**

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Rochester, NY 14624  
716/328-4340

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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.

**Businesses need to pay just salaries**

**To the editors:**

What do we see as the problem with our economy and the welfare system? What is wrong with business? The problem with our economy is not so much lack of jobs as it is lack of family nurturing jobs, or to put it simply jobs that can enable man and wife to suitable support a family according to Pope Paul VI *Humanae Vitae*.

We as a church need to make it easier to have a family while using natural family planning instead of artificial birth control. Families are in trouble because the wages of most jobs available are too low to support them. The only alternative to fall back on is to be on Welfare. There is no financial incentive to get off welfare so the welfare rolls have swelled to the point that soon there won't be enough money to the poor to provide for them.

What is the answer? What most people can do is pray much more on a daily basis than they do already instead of just giving up or floating through life on their own private recreation. Yes, the answer is prayer primarily because prayer and reception of the Sacraments increases the Graces from God to human beings that have the talent, opportunities, and money to do something about the situation. Prayer is the power behind any type of action that a person may do.

Now I will tell you what the economic problem is and its solution. All business, unless it is directed and controlled by very holy people, will always degenerate into "profit mongers." The only



objective that all companies and corporations have is to make profits or increase the value of their stock. That's why a company is in business for, right?

This one-sided goal is the problem! Why is it that auto makers use the same skills and the same daily effort and get paid many times the amount that someone else earns doing similar tasks? I'm not saying that the government should become socialized and force everyone to get the same wage. That would be wrong. That is Communism and is destructive. But the government should make it possible for wages to be negotiated privately by legally protecting Unions to do so. Unions, once they are

formed, are protected by law.

The problem is that the people who may want to start a Union are not! The result is that very few Unions are actually established! We need to legally protect people that want to work for a just wage along with other concerns. You can never trust business leaders alone. The purpose of the existence of business is to provide jobs with a just wage because if they don't then all the money falls into the hands of the rich and, it will sit in the bank. Since people earning low wages lose

their buying power and they will buy less. If more and more people buy less, then companies that manufacture products that they would have purchased sell less. If they sell less then they have to lay off more people who then will be able to buy less too, etc., etc., etc. So then the loss of jobs becomes excessive.

So what do we do? We pray first! Then we act according to our talents, opportunities, and financial resources. Is there any one out there that can help? I'm sure there is! Is it you? Pray on it. Do it!!!

**Matthew G. Pompeii**  
Dartmouth Street  
Rochester

**Priest suggests dialogue with Planned Parenthood**

**To the editors:**

Everybody has an opinion on abortion at this time of year. I am no exception. I believe that human life begins at conception, and once begun, that life should be nurtured and loved.

I have stated an ideal. Yet I live in the United States of America, where lots of people believe that this ideal has exceptions. Yes, nurture and love human life that is wanted, healthy, whole, and guaranteed an environment of growth and sufficiency. Should this life be the result of rape or incest, or should this life threaten the life of the one who carries it, this life may be terminated.

What do I think? I think abortion will continue to be a divisive issue. I think that Operation Rescue goes against the American grain and simply will not be an effective means of deterring abortion. I think that Birthright, the Problem Pregnancy Help Center, and other similar programs offer positive alternatives to

abortion. I think that because a politician is "pro-choice," Catholics should not automatically vote for his/her opponent, since some "pro-life" politicians are also pro-war, pro-death penalty, anti-welfare, etc.

I think that some church leaders should have the courage to enter into dialogue with Planned Parenthood, as did Father Albert Bartlett, SJ, some years ago. I think the Catholic Church needs to tone down its anti-abortion rhetoric and broadcast its compassion, love, and mercy toward women who have had abortions.

I think finally, that we need to teach our young people a consistent ethic of life — reverence for life from conception to death — that they may "choose life, that you and your descendants may live loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him" (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

**Father Robert L. Collins**  
East Avenue  
Rochester

**Religion benefits from laughter**

**To the editors:**

The sadness in our daily life, at times is overwhelming. What helps us to cope is the occasional smile or laugh that is brought to us by people in many different ways. One of these ways is in the form of entertainment. "Nonsense" or "Sister Act" fall into this category and I am thankful for the opportunity to see, to laugh, to enjoy.

Both the play and the movie were extremely well done and provided entertainment which was light, humorous, and entertaining. Let's lighten up and

enjoy what little there is out there to entertain us.

As a mature woman, I can identify with many sad memories which were a result of our church and its ways of the day. Today I look back on those memories with humor. Many facets of our church doctrine, back in my childhood, made no sense. Phyl Contestable as "The Reverend Mother," "Nonsense" and "Sister Act" have all allowed me to make "some sense" out of a dubious time.

**Rosemary Lubey**  
Harvard Street, Rochester

**Questions intent of recent article about infallibility**

**To the editors:**

Concerning the Sept. 15 article on papal infallibility ("Strict rules guide church in judging statements' weight"), it is my opinion that since we traditional Catholics believe that the Church is guided by the Holy Spirit — indefectible — and since *Pater aeter nus* — papal infallibility — was defined in 1870, why would Father McNamara question divine guidance?

Does not the preliminary vote of this declaration — 451 votes in favor, 62 conditional — suggest divine intervention? Perhaps the 531 in favor and 2 opposed at the final vote will.

Why does he call a minority at the council, who chose to leave Rome and dissent significant? A majority of bishops whom voted in favor of infallibility, and a minority who got on their boats and dissented, to me it becomes apparent that the Holy Spirit sent those dissenters walking.

Father McNamara furthers his view by mentioning Bishop McQuaid — one of the few dissenters who left Rome without voting — however accepted and proclaimed papal infallibility upon approval by the majority of Bishops. Why wouldn't Father McNamara conclude that after approval of infallibility, Bishop McQuaid might have been enlightened to believe that the Holy Spirit was at work at the final vote and to accept it gracefully.

The entire article on infallibility written by Lee Strong with quotes from Fathers Sullivan, Hart and McNamara remind me of a quote of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen: "Men can make inquiries about Christ's intervention for two reasons, either to worship or to harm."

**Michael P. Valerio**  
Malin Lane  
Penfield