

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.



Celebrate Oct. 31 as eve of feast

To the editors:

With Halloween just around the corner, it is interesting to notice how ecstatic the secularists have become. As early as late September pictures and signs pertaining to witches and goblins have appeared in windows and on front lawns.

However, Halloween is not just a fun time. It has, indeed, become sinister and devilish. The Satanists do not call it Devil's night for nothing.

Whatever the sentiment, it must forever be remembered — especially in our secular, anti-religious culture — that one of the Devil's cleverest wiles is to distract us from Christ in any way he can. And in our highly technological times, there is an interminable display of gadgets and gimmicks to amuse ourselves with without ever bringing Christ and His Truth into

our lives.

For one thing, the word Halloween comes from the old English meaning All-hallows Eve, which denoted the evening before the great Feast of all Saints on November 1. It was a time when Europe was still Catholic and on this holy eve there was great pageantry in the churches with High Masses and numerous public processions. Since the 16th century Protestant Revolt from the Catholic Church, these ceremonies gradually became disfigured and transformed into a secular feast with additions of ancient pagan rituals of Druid ancestry. Catholic ceremonies were replaced with the veneration of witches, goblins, pumpkins and now monsters. It has indeed become a cult and has taken many a mind away from that great feast in which we honor

those men, women and children who are with God in Heaven — those who ought to be our real role models. And in this sense, Halloween is truly diabolical.

St. John wrote that "Every spirit that dissolveth Jesus is not of God; and this is Anti Christ" (1 John 4:3). This means that anyone or anything that distracts, dilutes or diminishes Christ and His teachings is of the Devil, just as Anti Christ is from the Devil.

Therefore, let us treat Halloween as a fairy tale for amusement only, but let us place our true sentiments on the great and wonderful Feast of All Saints. Let us love them, honor them and pray to them that one day we may, *Deo Volente*, be with them.

Richard V. Hussar
Jordan Avenue, Rochester

AQ alumnus suspicious of effort to establish administrative office

To the editors:

As a proud Alumnus of Aquinas Institute, I have to respond to the recent publicity around the "power struggle" over leadership of Aquinas Institute. I not only share Father Lanzalaco's opinion, but I commend him for his courage in bringing the matter public. There is absolutely no need for a chief administrative officer of a local Catholic high school. It's a blatant move to eventually remove control of the school from the hands of the good Basilian Fathers and place it in the hands of the laity.

I find it highly suspicious that when this idea was first suggested over a year ago, the Alumni were informed that the idea would be tabled until this year. However, the board of trustees has apparently been quietly acting on this proposal, even going so far as to interview potential candidates for the position and the Alum-

ni have not been informed.

I would respectfully like to remind the board of trustees that the many Alumni who donate a great deal of money to Aquinas every year, do so as a way of saying thanks to the good Fathers who for over 60 years have dedicated their lives to teaching young adults "goodness, discipline and knowledge." I dare say that a great many Alumni may have second thoughts about future donations, if they believed that the Basilians were not calling the shots anymore!

How many parents of prospective students might reconsider enrolling their children at the school in the future, if the laity were running the school as opposed to the religious community of St. Basil. There's an old saying guys — "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Alan Rector
Flower City Park, Rochester

Columbus deserves our 'remembrance'

To the editors:

As American Catholics we do not know of anyone who more deserves our grateful remembrance than the great and noble man, the pious zealous, faithful Catholic, the enterprising navigator and the large hearted and generous sailor Christopher Columbus.



This devotion helped all of Latin America's native peoples see Christianity as "no longer simply arriving from without," but as a creative energy arising from within native culture.

Joseph Barberio
Augustine Street, Rochester

Party vice chairman feels politicians don't want vote

To the editors:

As a pro-lifer, this election has made it crystal clear that the Republican and Conservative Parties do not want my vote. George Pataki, candidate for governor; Elizabeth McCaughey, candidate for lieutenant governor; and Bernadette Castro, candidate for U.S. Senator, all have adopted the so-called "pro-choice" stand. All of them want to keep abortion legal, all of them want your tax dollars to pay for abortions, and none of them want any legal protection for our preborn sisters

and brothers.

To make it clear, Pataki promises to put abortion funding in his State Budget.

No one who has compassion for the plight of preborn children can, in conscience, vote for these politicians.

Democrat Cuomo and Independent Golisano also favor legal abortion; neither of them wants my vote either.

The only one on the ballot this year who cares about the babies is Robert Walsh, the Right to Life Party candidate for governor. If we can get a large vote

total on the Right to Life Party, we can show the politicians that we really care.

The RTLTP candidate for lieutenant governor is Virginia Sutton, senator is Henry Hewes, Comptroller is Herbert London, and Attorney-General is Alfred Skidmore. If you have any questions, or want to help, please call me at (315) 539-8006.

Don Peters
Huff Street
Waterloo

EDITORS' NOTE: Peters is vice chairman of the New York State Right to Life Party.