

OPINION COMMENTARY

Catholic Courier

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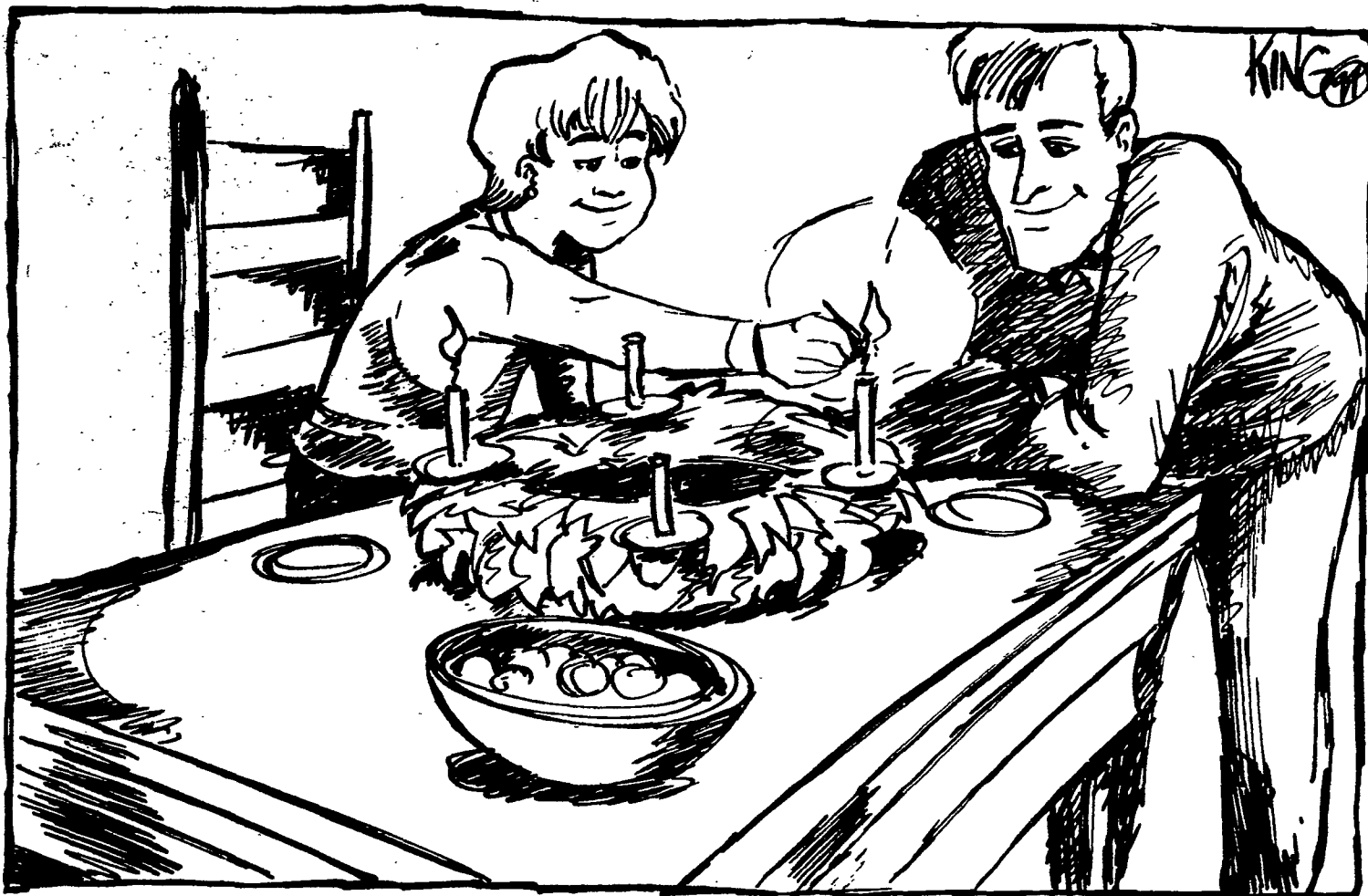
Letters Policy

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.



Praying for farm-worker aid project

To the editors:

We would like to express our support for the proposed farmworker housing/training project in Newark. This program of self-help provides an opportunity for individuals to develop their potential and work toward a brighter future. We believe that the social value of this program far outweighs the concerns expressed by the village board.

The farmworkers are a hard-working people whose labor contributes to us being the best fed nation in the world. Although progress has been made, many labor and social programs restrict the access of migrants and other seasonally hired farmworkers from the benefits enjoyed by the majority of us. Most live and work under deprived conditions where paid overtime, sick/vacation leave, workmen's compensation, and unemployment insurance are unheard of.

History has demonstrated that into whatever community the migrants go,

their status is undeservingly the lowest on the social scale. It seems that their labor is welcome, but they are not. We hope that the people of Newark will set an example by reversing past behaviors and attitudes by welcoming and integrating them instead. We hope, too, that our community can muster the courage to offer these same families a sense of belonging, acceptance, and a place to call HOME.

The Rural Opportunities project is a small step toward improving the economic and social conditions of the migrant farmworkers. Through education, new skills can be learned so that regular employment can be obtained. They, too,

can have hope for a better future for their children and become eligible for the rights and benefits enjoyed by the rest of us.

We pray that the Lord will guide and protect the farmworkers who come to our County each year. Likewise, we pray that our community will listen to the Gospel message of love and service to one another. At stake is the health and welfare of a people who already make a vital contribution to our national/local economy and who challenge us to live the Gospel message.

Social Ministry Committee
St. Michael's Church
Newark

Children's Sabbath event offered various perspectives on violence

To the editors:

I appreciate the *Catholic Courier* taking the time and the space to recognize the involvement of St. Mary's of Bath in the National Observance of Children's Sabbath. This nationwide event uses a weekend in October to encourage communities of faith to pray for, and otherwise become involved in, the issue of violence directed at or perpetrated by our children.

The *Courier* aptly noted the use of tolling bells to call attention to the issue. The bells, though, were a small part of the weekend. All the Masses had liturgy focused on our community's children, and our responsibility to them. The homily at each mass was delivered by Attorney John Brasley, a lawyer who has worked with children and families im-

pacted by violence. Because of his experience and insight, and because of his deep faith, he was able to speak eloquently to the matter. In addition, many of the Sunday school classes had age-appropriate lessons so that the children became involved in the discussion.

The American culture has attempted to deal with our Youth-at-Risk by putting money into the schools and legal systems. We have touched the pockets, and sometimes the minds, of America. But unless we touch the hearts and souls of our nation, we will not succeed in turning the problem around. As a people of faith, we have hope. We can also have a positive impact.

Mary Carol Wall
Avoca

Apologizes for misinterpretation

To the editors:

Concerning my (letter) of Oct. 13 on infallibility of the Pope, I questioned the intent of Bishop McQuaid's leaving Rome before a vote on the issue. The article had quotes from Father Robert McNamara as well as other priests. I chose to take issue with Father McNamara without fully knowing the entire reason why Bishop McQuaid and others didn't vote on papal infallibility.

Father McNamara has since enlightened me on the subject with a lovely personal letter. I apologize with all my heart especially to Father McNamara and anyone else I may have offended.

I would like to say if the article would have been written with the entire explanation of why Bishop McQuaid and others left without voting, my misinterpretation of the article was the reason for my response. Often quotes are taken out of context, and in partiality. Again, my sincerest apologies to Father Robert McNamara.

Michael P. Valerio
Malin Lane, Penfield

EDITORS' NOTE: The anecdote about Bishop McQuaid was used as a local tie to a much broader international issue. Unfortunately, space did not permit a lengthy exposition of Bishop McQuaid's reasoning.

Thanking volunteers for making difference through parish effort

To the editors:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those that participated in the recent "Make A Difference Day" on Saturday, October 22nd, which we organized at our church, St. Cecilia's on Culver Road in Irondequoit.

Our plan was to seek donations of clothing, toys and household items for the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired Goodwill Industries Donation Center and non-perishable food items for the St. Andrew's Food Cupboard and we are happy to say we were very successful.

An entire classroom was filled to the brim with donations and we want to thank you and say we are very proud of our church community and the community in general because they answer a call to help "make a difference" in the lives of others. People are more aware of the needs and goals of both these agencies and it is our hope that donations will continue to go to both of them even though "Make A Difference Day" is over.

Judy, Bill, Scott and Nicole Davis
Vinto Road
Rochester

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