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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.

Teachings are critical to progress**To the editors:**

This letter is a response to the letter of Mr. Gregory Soehner of Planned Parenthood (*Catholic Courier*, Nov. 17: "Dialogue is way to understanding, respect").

The family is under siege. Economics have forced parents to devote more time to work at their family's expense. Demographic changes have dispersed families, separating children from the influence of relatives and friends. Most troubling, however, is the proliferation of anti-family forces which have undermined the role of parents as teachers of their children's sexual values.

Planned Parenthood has long been as advocate for abortion on demand and contraceptive distribution for teenagers without their parents' knowledge or consent. The organization also promotes value neutral sex education where anyone's opinion on sexual matters is of equal merit. Massive expenditures of money and media promotion were used to advance these ideas which have seriously endangered the health of our citizens.

Contraceptive use among teenagers promotes promiscuity. Females, sexually active before age 20, and who have had sex with three or more partners before age 25 have a high risk of developing cancer of the cervix. It is also becoming more apparent that teens, whose first pregnancy ended in abortion, have a high risk of developing breast cancer. The rate of breast cancer has doubled since *Roe vs. Wade* in 1973. Twenty percent of Americans now suffer from venereal disease and their sterility rate is twice that of the rest of the world.

Something needs to be done to reverse

these trends. About one teenager in 10 who was taught sex education by Planned Parenthood in the 1980s became pregnant. Another program, begun at that time by the Family of the Americas Foundation in Washington, D.C., instructed both teenagers and their parents on the importance of abstinence. Here, the pregnancy rate dropped to 3 per 1,000 yet Planned Parenthood successfully sued to end government funding of this program depriving millions of people the opportunity of learning how to best avoid pregnancy. It seems they are more interested in promoting themselves and more dangerous and less reliable methods of family planning instead of supporting the best possible programs available.

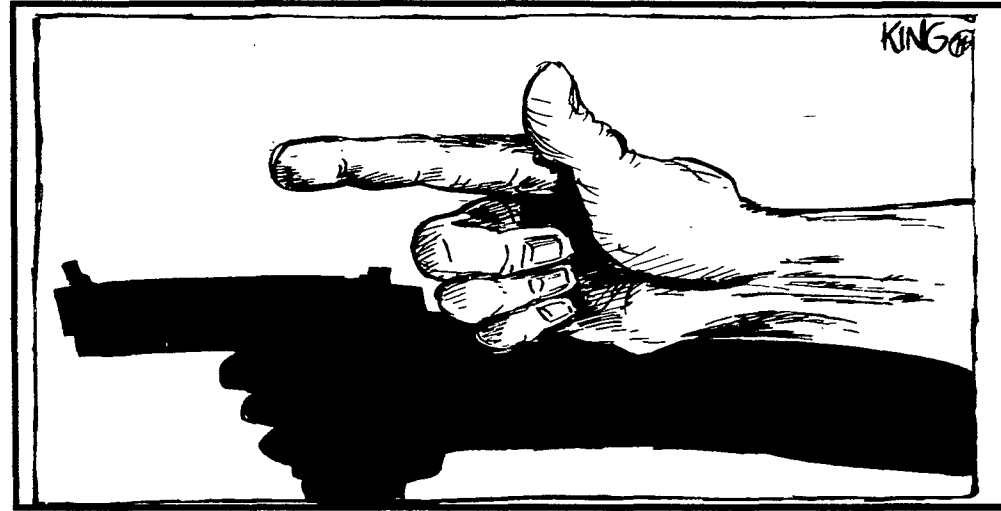
All of us have been influenced by highly dedicated teachers and athletic coaches who demanded and accepted nothing but our very best, enabling us to achieve high goals. But when it comes to sex education, we are told by Planned Parenthood to accept a much inferior and un-

healthy program because our teenagers have "allegedly lost the capacity of controlling their passions."

Unwanted pregnancies were the excuse to advocate for abortion yet 90 percent of abused children came from wanted pregnancies according to a landmark study from the University of Southern California. There is much more to accepting children than their initially being wanted or unwanted because the capacity for loving them can be learned.

Dialogue is important but never forget Planned Parenthood's teachings on abortion, contraception and sexual education are directly opposed to those of the Catholic Church and there can never be compromise on these issues. Real progress will only be made when Planned Parenthood adopts Catholic teaching on these important issues, or else spiritual warfare will continue between the two organizations.

Michael R. Aiello, M.D., President
Catholic Physicians Guild

**Decries letter from exec. director of agency****To the editors:**

I never thought I would see the day that a letter written by the executive director of Planned Parenthood would run in our Catholic newspaper in the guise of "dialogue" and self-justification without a caveat and a statement of Catholic doctrine on artificial contraception and abortion.

There should be confusion on this subject. The Catechism exhorts "Let all be convinced that human life and the duty of transmitting it are not limited by the horizons of this life only: their true evaluation and full significance can be understood only in reference to man's eternal

destiny." The Catechism calls abortion "abominable" and states that "formal cooperation in abortion constitutes a grave offense."

... There can be no "dialogue" when Planned Parenthood is the largest supporter and provider of artificial contraception and abortions in the world. Planned Parenthood supporters are in direct conflict with the Pope and the majority of foreign governments concerning population control and have spent millions in court opposing any sanction that would lessen the need for abortion.

In 1992 Planned Parenthood showed

income of \$406.3 million, of which \$124 million was taxpayer supplied. They are currently lobbying for even more taxpayer support of their programs despite the fact that the majority of American taxpayers do not want to pay for abortion.

They have invaded our family life and openly campaign stating that "Parents say the darndest things about sex." They have succeeded in lobbying our state legislature for the right to give our daughters contraceptives and abortions without our knowledge, advice or permission. They laugh at abstinence programs being the answer to teenage pregnancy when 79 percent of abortions performed in 1990 were on the unmarried. They should be called Planned Promiscuity!

They are asking New York State to waive the need for only medical doctors to perform this invasive surgery. They are promoting and using our young women as guinea pigs in newer chemical research in abortion that is banned in Germany. In their 1992 Annual Report they state that they are responsible for the deaths 135,000 infants.

Mr. Soehner needs our prayers ...

And we Catholics need our bishops and clergy to lead the way in instruction and exhortation. It is time for Catholics to read and discuss the questions of life raised in *Humanae Vitae*. We need to promise that this Diocese will care for any woman and her unborn child.

Our Catholic newspaper should be the vehicle to teach, correct, and communicate the articles of our faith and the good news it brings to mankind. Any less is a dereliction of duty and as the catechism declares:

"The information provided by the media is at the service of the common good. Society has a right to information based on truth, freedom, justice and solidarity."

Mary E. Quinn
Willits Road, Ontario

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter has been edited to comply with our letters policy and space limitations.

Agency should switch to adoption**To the editors:**

I am writing in response to Gregory Soehner's letter to the editor regarding opening up dialogue between Planned Parenthood and the Catholic Church when abortion is at issue.

Being Executive Director of Planned Parenthood, Mr. Soehner said he knows the tragedy of unwanted, unloved children and has felt both the pain of and compassion for people who find themselves pregnant and know they cannot assume the lifelong commitment that they face. When Mr. Soehner comes to this conclusion, one is led to believe that the only solution would be to abort. He

fails to mention that there is another option that would make the woman in a crisis pregnancy feel less burdened, and at the same time show compassion for her baby, this being "adoption." For every baby aborted, there is a couple who would like to adopt a baby, therefore, making every baby a "wanted baby."

What better way could Planned Parenthood show its compassion, and understanding for the unborn, than if it were to convert its abortion clinic to an adoption agency.

Dianna Richmond Ives
Simpson Road
Rochester

Urges seeking reconciliation within church**To the editors:**

Doubt and darkness, how do the two go hand in hand. Gregory Soehner, executive director of the local Planned Parenthood, admitted his faith experience being mostly embedded in doubt rather than certainty. That helps to explain his deep involvement in the dark world of planned abortions.

Mr. Soehner, like many other pro-choicers, conveniently doubt the beginning of life. Although self-serving, I find

that position to be intellectually dishonest. However, there is no doubt as to when life ends - planned or unplanned.

Instead of dialogue between Planned Parenthood and the Roman Catholic Church, Mr. Soehner should be seeking truth and reconciliation within her. Conversion now will later improve his standing at final judgment.

Stephen J. Fisher
Honeoye Falls