

# OPINION COMMENTARY

## Catholic Courier

1150 Buffalo Road  
Rochester, NY 14624  
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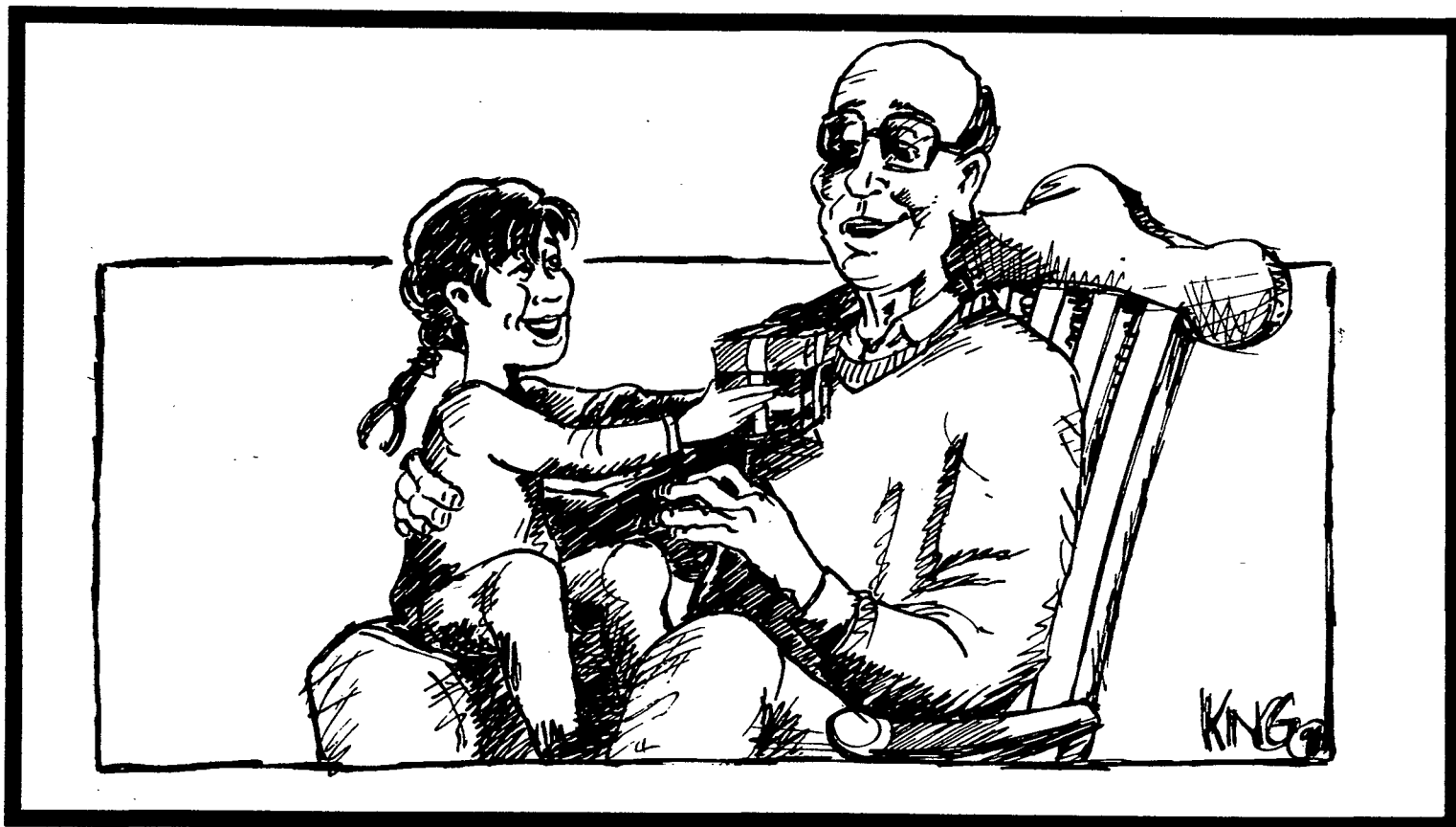
### Letters Policy

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.



## GRC puts EWTN in bad company

### To the editors:

It was very inspiring to see EWTN's advertisement in the *Catholic Courier* (Dec. 1), promoting Mother Angelica's upcoming Christmas programs. However, it was also very disappointing that such excellent Catholic television programming is only available through Greater Rochester Cablevision. Mother Angelica is not all that new subscribers will see on so-called basic, "family" cable. You will also be viewing and paying for semi or total nudity from unrequested HBO promotional movies and Playboy previews, along with obscenities from leased- and public-access stations. If Mother Angelica ever saw what was on

GRC's basic cable, she would be totally outraged.

As Catholics concerned about raising families and maintaining a decent community, we must take a stand together about such filth. GRC is testing their limits, and unless action is taken now, pornography will be soon flooding our televisions. Please write GRC to either: 1) cancel service, 2) complain about service, or 3) express your intention of never buying service, unless programming is cleaned up. Send a copy of your letter to (Monroe County) District Attorney Howard Relin. The addresses are:

Mr. Mario Rodriguez  
Greater Rochester Cablevision

71 Mt. Hope Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14620  
District Attorney Howard Relin  
Hall of Justice  
Room 201  
Rochester, N.Y. 14614

You may also be interested in obtaining a shortwave radio, which carries Mother Angelica 24 hours a day of Catholic broadcasting. To inquire please call (205) 672-7200 or write:

WEWN Catholic Shortwave Radio  
P.O. Box 100234  
Birmingham, Alabama 35210

"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing" — Edmund Burke. For any additional information, call (716) 865-8383.

**Michael McBride**  
Fillingham Drive  
Rochester

## Don't seek bad in good acts

### To the editors:

Concerning your article of 10-13-94, "Spirituality of Men" I thought that it was a pensive, well written statement about feelings that many of us males have pondered. If there was a weakness, it was that the article could have delved into several ideas, just a little deeper. However, I appreciated the offering.

However, in the letters column of 11-10-94 I was distraught over two points. Too many people read too much into images. The photo in particular was the torso and the crucifix. Since we live in a free country we can interpret anything anyway we choose. But when something is done for good, why do people look for bad? I would hope that people would look for positive ideas in a world where hope is often the only strength many have. Forgive this example, but if people can see the art in the pornography of Robert Mapplethorpe, why can't they understand

the positive image in a story which addresses a long hidden, but well received and greatly appreciated article?

Secondly, I disagree vehemently that "Priests are the ultimate image of men in the church, and of men and spirituality." This kind of rhetoric is what placed many men on a pedestal and separated them from reality, and their flocks. I will agree that a priest's training enables him to reach a level of spirituality that is deep, and valuable. But the nature of his profession separates him from the spirituality that is developed through closer, familial, marital relationships. Many laymen have a depth to their spirituality that is as great, and as fulfilling, yet quite different from that of the ordained members of our church.

Let us always remember that our glasses are at least half full.

**Francis E. Whitford**  
Brady Street, Elmira

## Agency should demonstrate compassion by transforming purpose of its new clinic

### 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

## Sisters working in Brazil send thanks for aid

### To the editors:

We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester living in Brazil, want to express our gratitude to the people of the Rochester Diocese for your continuing support. We are 13 sisters working in three states in the central-west of Brazil. Our people are poor farm workers, families living precariously on the periphery of large cities, the Indians Myky, undernourished children, church members seeking to grow in faith and leadership, young people searching for a better education and to discover their vocation, the sick with few resources, the Brazilian people seeking justice and ethics in their political-economic system.

Jesus is born and lives in our midst and we experience our God incarnate in our sisters and brothers in this time and place in history. We are grateful for your prayers and financial contributions in the annual Mission collection - through your support our presence and work here continues.

May you and your families and the communities of faith spread throughout the Diocese of Rochester be blessed this Christmas and in the New Year.

**The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester in Brazil: Barbara Orczyk, Catherine Foes, Christel Burgmaier, Dolores Turner, Ellen Kuhl, Ireny Rosa da Silva, Janet Connerton, Jean Bellini, Joana Dalva Alves Mendes, Katherine Popowich, Marlena Roeger, Maureen Finn and Suzanne Wills**