

Catholic Courier

1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624
716/328-4340

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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.

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Fr. Valente was friend to Cursillo movement

To the editors:

We have just lost a very dear friend who was called home by his heavenly Father. His name is Father Tony Valente. He came into our lives almost 25 years ago when he worked on the team of our Cursillo weekend in the autumn of 1970. Since that time, Father Tony has become our personal friend, confidant and spiritual director. He has shared with us many spirit filled liturgies including a Eucharistic celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary eight years ago this past summer.

Anyone who has known Father Tony for even a short time will all agree that he has affected their lives significantly. Here was a man of God who spent his entire priestly ministry witnessing to all Christians and non-Christians alike that Jesus Christ was his God, their God, and

the God of all who chose Him as their personal Lord and Savior.

Father Tony was a humble man, a kind man and a loving person who cared more than a lot about his fellow priests and his brothers and sisters in the community of man.

We miss you Father Tony and we love you very much. We know where you're hanging out and we know who your friends are up there. And remember, friend Tony, to pray for the rest of us down here who need all the help we can get!

From your Cursillo friends: "De Colores."

From all your brothers and sisters: "Ar-rivederci."

Fran and Mary Pierce
East Lake Road
Livonia

Priest was Christ-like figure

To the editors:

To me Father Tony Valente was a Christ-like Figure. I am thankful he has been a part of my life. I have a closer relationship with God because of him.

He had an open invitation extended to all his people to be involved and participate in our faith community.

He had a gentle way of spreading God's word. His priority was to be there for his people — those in the parish or those on the street. We were all his people. He was so unconditional in his love. He did not judge or condemn. He had so much compassion, there were times I thought life must have been there when I was going through a tough time.

He had a remarkable memory when it came to people's names. I thought only God knew everyone's name.

Father Tony helped me to find answers in my life. He taught me to use God's graces of wisdom, patience, and understanding. I believe I have a personal relationship with God because of his teaching and examples in the 12 years I have known him.

Although I will miss him in my life, I am grateful that he helped me to grow as a spiritual Child of God.

God must have needed another St. Anthony.

Diane Ferrucci
Penhurst Road, Rochester

'Call to Action' expose offered too-familiar picture

To the editors:

In the Jan. 22, 1995 CBS "60 Minutes" story, "A Call To Action," Mike Wallace presented an all too familiar look at dissent in the Catholic Church in America.

For those who missed this particular expose, "Call to Action" is a national organization of disaffected Catholics who have elected to remain in the Church to agitate for change in the Church's doctrine, discipline, liturgy, and organizational structure. Guided by popular culture, their agenda includes a menu of protest for: women's ordination; dilution of papal authority; supremacy of

personal conscience; lay election of bishops; homosexual rights; etc.

What "60 Minutes" represents as novel, our local experience records as routine. For several years, this diocese has seen a steady parade of the leading "Call to Action" personalities courtesy of St. Bernard's Institute, the Sisters of Mercy, and by extension, the Chancery. Charlie Curran, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Joan Chittister, and Edwina Gateley are just a few of the familiar faces. The local ecclesiastical appetite for this level of dissent is truly remarkable. All of which brings to the front some need for reso-

Parishioners need to respect priests' privacy

To the editors:

May I follow up on Alan Rector's excellent letter regarding the serious problem of the shortage of priests in the diocese. Among other things, Mr. Rector rightly insists that priests take periodic vacations.

Along with well-deserved and necessary vacations, parishioners must learn to allow our priests private time in between vacations. I was brought up with the knowledge one does not disturb the priest during non business hours unless, of course, there is an emergency. It amazes me when our pastor will occasionally mention the non emergency calls he gets during the late evening or even early morning hours! Although father never complains, it's obvious these calls take their toll.

As the number of priests decline and the demands on them increase, it's important we respect our priests' privacy and let them rest during off duty hours. Being conscious of the proper times to contact the pastor is an easy thing to do and is a great help to our overworked priests.

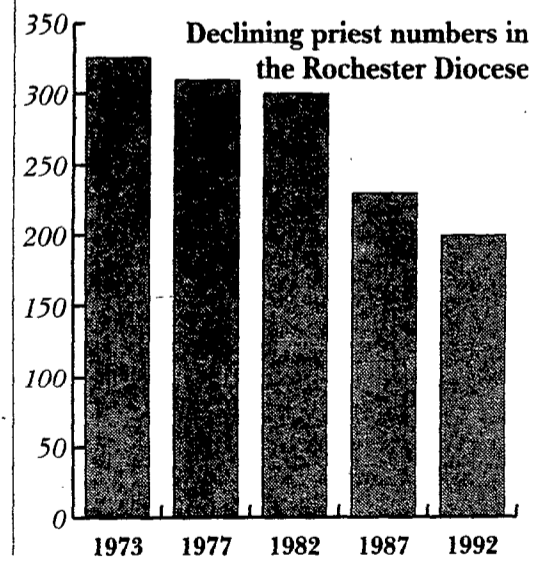
David Dwyer
Geneseo

A few suggested ways to deal with shortage

To the editors:

We as Catholics have enjoyed priests' availability for a long time. Sad as it is, it is coming to an end. How then the few left will cover the needs of parishes in terms of ordained priests? My suggestion is to take the priests we have left from administrative duty, so they can administer to the needs of the people as priests. We can hire lay administrator, they can promise obedience to the bishop like the priest are required. Also we can invite other bishops, from other countries to share their priests with us. Personally I would welcome and love a Holy Quasimodo priest then to be without one.

Frances Caci
Clymer Street, Auburn



'Call to Action' expose offered too-familiar picture

lution of these conflicts. The recent reports of entire congregations of Episcopalians converting to the Roman Catholic faith offers one possible model. Perhaps, we could have a "prisoner exchange." All of the priests, religious, and others — the "I'm in tension with Rome" crowd — who insist on positions contrary to Church teaching and discipline, could find welcome accommodation at one of the various Protestant assemblies. Do they need to be reminded that they have their freedom?

W. Randolph Smith
Rochester