

# 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.

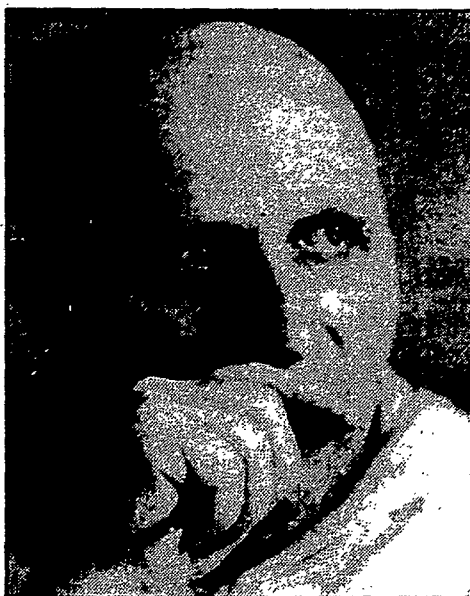
## Church is indebted to Congar

### To the editors:

My congratulations to the *Courier* and in particular to staff writer Rob Cullivan for the fine tribute to one of the great theologians of this century ("Yves Congar: Late theologian persuaded Catholic Church to embrace arguments for ecumenism," July 13). The article made very clear the debt which we all owe to Yves Congar, whose recent reception of the cardinal's hat hardly made up for the suffering he experienced at the hands of the authority of the Church he loved so humbly and served so graciously.

For him the Second Vatican Council was in no way a rejection of the Council of Trent or of the First Vatican Council; it was, however, a repudiation of "Tridentinism," which Congar saw as a rigid, restrictive structure that emerged after the Council of Trent, but which was in no way a creation of that Council.

He was a man of deep spirituality. He exemplified the earliest understanding



CNS photo

Yves Congar

of the "theologian," namely, the holy man who is able to speak about God. In 1987 from his hospital bed in Paris, he said: "I think that it is impossible to preserve a Christian lifestyle without a degree of inner life."

Thanks to the *Courier* for acknowledging the debt we owe to this distinguished follower of Christ and servant of the Church.

Msgr. William H. Shannon  
East Avenue, Rochester

## Memorial vigil marks bombing of Hiroshima



RNS/Reuters

Christians at a church in Hiroshima July 30 erect a carbonized cross damaged during the Japanese city's atomic bombing on Aug. 6, 1945.

### To the editors:

On the 50th anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace joins with others throughout the United States to remember with sadness all victims of the nuclear arms race. Those people and thousands harmed by subsequent weapons testing show us that the long-term survival of the planet depends on our working for peace, not preparing for war.

In the 1990s, our schools, cities, and neighborhoods are suffering from severe cutbacks. Still, the United States continues to spend about \$40 billion each year on projects related to nuclear weapons.

## Suggests priests discuss vocation more

### To the editors:

I am writing in regard to the shortage of priests. I don't pretend to have a solution, but I do have a suggestion.

Two years ago when Father Lee Chase came to St. Mary's in Auburn, he spoke of his journey to the priesthood. I was moved by his words. Since then I have wondered why more priests have not spoken of their journey toward God and becoming a priest. I've also wondered why more priests do not speak of all the posi-

tive aspects of being a priest. In this day and age we hear parents speaking of their child's future as a doctor or a lawyer. If more priests spoke of all the good things about being a priest, then maybe more parents would include that as a vocation for their child. As a mother with two young sons, I'd be proud to call one, or both of them, Father.

Nancy A. Kavanagh  
Perrine Street  
Auburn

## Eucharistic ministers set tone for style of Mass attire

### To the editors:

In my recent letter there was one omission. Where I referred to Eucharist Ministers wearing colorful sports shirts, it should have read colorful T-shirts. In my mind there is a distinct difference. Colorful sports shirts can be proper attire in this day and age, but I still contend that T-shirts — no matter how well intended — are not proper for Eucharist Ministers.

It is my belief that the example shown by Eucharist Ministers trickles down to the congregation. Thus, I do not believe that the middle-aged man wearing red bathing trunks to Mass last Sunday thought there was anything inappropriate in his attire. Next, we may expect to see bikinis.

I wish our priests were not so timid and would suggest some rules of etiquette. Years ago, when I visited Rome, women were required to wear a mantilla. And, years ago, when my father went to Mass — pre air-conditioned churches — he always wore a shirt, tie and jacket.

Of course, time brings changes; some good, some bad. I have a sister who is a Dominican nun and I remember the layers of clothing they wore, so I do favor their more sensible dress. However, I still feel that nuns should be proud to acknowledge to the world that they have a religious vocation and at least wear a light veil when performing religious duties. It seems that Rodney Dangerfield gets more respect that the Lord these days.

Florence Goodwin  
Laredo Drive  
Rochester

## Bishop Hickey blesses diocese with many gifts

### To the editors:

Kudos for your deserving tribute to Bishop Dennis Hickey, the (unpaid) general manager of the diocesan paper ("Between the Lines," July 6).

I have known him over the years since he came to Rochester as a student from his beloved Dansville, New York, which to him was a kind of Arcadia, dominated on the hilltop only by the DL&W Railroad and Bernard MacFadden's rejuvenatorium.

His qualities, which you have well enumerated — humility, courtesy, tact, intelligence, quiet efficiency, and wry humor — have matured with age.

Whether he was a simple assistant priest in Auburn or a Rochester pastor, a parish priest or a chancery official, a monsignor or a bishop, he was always approachable, unassuming and unpretentious.

Some of those he trusted have disappointed him, but he has not become bitter or cynical. Sometimes his decisions, whether in the diocesan Tribunal or at the paper, have caused hurt, but that was never intended or sought. It is easy to be genial when hard decisions can be avoided, especially today when it is not easy to be a bishop.

Much as he abhors public or private paeans, it needs to be said, loud and clear, that the diocese has been enriched by this gentle, self-effacing priest.

E. Leo McMannus  
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Venice, Florida