

OPINIONS

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.



Thank God for blessings by TGA gift

To the editor:

TGA is coming again! So what do we priests, religious and laity complain about this year? The diocesan school plans, synod meetings and goals, the bishop's march to the capital or that women are taking over our diocese!

Instead of exaggerating and complaining about the events and people we fail to understand or disagree with, it might be high time to consider and thank God for the many blessings we enjoy in our diocese.

In my 40 years as a priest, I have seen the Catholic Church in Europe, Rome, the Holy Land, Peru, and many states. I would not want to be ministering in any other place than our diocese.

We certainly have our faults and shortcomings, but, we can be proud of our diocese because we are a church for today.

Our bishop is willing to listen and pray before he acts, to see things in their prop-

er perspective, and to take people where they are and to bring them closer to Christ.

While the diocese might not receive a 100 percent rating, they would receive a 85-90 percent score in my book.

Whenever, I had 85 percent in school, I considered myself good!

As I tell the "kids": If your family, school or church score 85-90 percent, don't drop it, keep it, and try to improve it! You are blessed.

If we are wondering where all the funds are going, we will have three bulletin inserts to read.

Pitch in, continue to pray for and support our bishop and leaders.

In gratitude for our diocesan church, let's give generously of our time and funds to the Thanks Giving Appeal!

Father Elmer J. Schmidt
St. Ann's Church, Hornell



Thanks Giving
Appeal
1995-96

Vatican acts in response to inaction of bishops

To the editor:

Regarding Father McBrien's column, "NCCB Report a remarkable document," of Sept. 14: The report describes steps that the Vatican has taken that are disturbing to a group of bishops and many of their colleagues. It isn't hard to understand why these actions have caused problems.

And with so much dissent from church teaching existing in the U.S., many bishops must feel that they are caught in the middle.

However, it is important to ask what is happening that is causing the Vatican to take these steps. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

We respectfully ask that the bishops who support the report examine one of its premises:

"We have succeeded in instructing Catholics in the basic truths, laws, and practices of the church..."

We believe, to the contrary, that we have not succeeded in passing on authentic Catholic teaching on faith and morals.

Consider:

- two-thirds of U.S. Catholics do not believe that Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist (New York Times Poll).

- The abortion rate among Catholics is no better than the general population.

- Catholic Universities and colleges heap honors on prominent Catholic politicians who consistently speak and vote against pro life initiatives.

We believe that it is our failure to pass on core Catholic teaching that is the root cause of the Vatican actions that some bishops find objectionable.

We hope that the bishops who support the report will analyze what is happening or not happening in their dioceses that is contributing to problems with Rome and take action to improve relations, and, our bet is that Pope John Paul will simultaneously take steps to improve things from his end, too.

P.S. Father McBrien, shame, picking on Mother Angelica. Who's next? Mother Teresa?

Mary Lou & Ed McGarrell Jr.
Wall Street, Elmira

Do not change Mass into a picnic

To the editor:

As I read the letter in the September 14th edition, of the parents who went shopping for the best "Crying Room," it was ludicrous!

Primarily in my young days of being a young mother of five children, there weren't any crying rooms, good or bad! As I read about all the faults these two parents found on their journey!

Consequently, my husband and I went to different Masses! And did until the children started school! Or until they were old enough to understand what

going to Mass meant!

But to take all that equipment along every time you went to Mass was like going on a picnic! Hardly conducive to putting a right mind on the Mass! What with the eating, drinking, play things! Just too much!

It would have been better for the two of you to go to a different Mass and concentrate alone for the short time you were there!

Frances S. Attinasi
Hudson Avenue
Rochester

RG&E surprised by inclusion in ad listing

To the editor:

RG&E accepted an agreement to sponsor some group advertising endorsements with the *Catholic Courier*, offering well wishes to your readers and our customers for certain holidays such as Easter and Christmas. We do this as well for special days for our Jewish customers through *The Jewish Ledger*.

We were surprised with last week's sponsored advertisements in the *Courier*

for Respect Life. The advertisements listed RG&E, among other companies, as endorsing the Catholic Church's position on human life.

For the record, RG&E does not take a stand on this issue or any issues that fall outside the conduct of our business.

George J. Lappan
Director

Corporate Communications
Rochester Gas & Electric