

OPINIONS

Catholic Courier

©1996, Rochester Catholic Press Association.
 1150 Buffalo Road
 P.O. Box 24379
 Rochester, NY 14624
 716/328-4340

President

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

General Manager/Editor

Karen M. Franz

Editorial Department

Associate Editor

Lee Strong

Copy editor/Staff writer

Kathleen Schwar

Finger Lakes

Staff writers

Rob Cullivan

Genesee Valley

Mike Latona

Southern Tier

Staff Photographer

S. John Wilkin

Business Department

Circulation Manager

Jeanne A. Morin

Office Manager

Mary DiPonzio

Administrative Assistant

Lenna Hurley

Advertising Department

Advertising Director

Ray Frey

Account Executives

Tom DeRoller

Barbara W. Marcellus

Production Department

Graphic Designers

Kim Parks

Amy Sundstrom

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 letter writers' opinions.

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, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your full name, phone number and complete address for verification purposes.

Program supporter lauds help

To the editors:

Most of your readers will be familiar with Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, a Catholic sponsorship program in Kansas City, as your paper often features an ad on the program. And, some parishes in your diocese have had priests from CFCA like myself preach about the work of CFCA and the Third World poor, resulting in many children and elderly persons being sponsored by your readers. I would personally like to express my appreciation to all.

I would also like to share some exciting news. On Friday, March 29, the president and co-founder of CFCA, Robert Hentzen, celebrated his 60th birthday. I was in Kansas City to celebrate the event. After a beautiful celebration of the Mass and lunch with several hundred well wishers, Hentzen began a "Pilgrimage of Faith" for the poor, walking from Kansas City to Guatemala.

"I'm doing this to raise awareness to the treasures found in the simple people



on this earth. I'm doing this to tell them I love them, and I respect them," Bob said. Eighty percent of the people in our world, our brothers and sisters, live in abject poverty.

Bob Hentzen hopes to arrive in Guatemala in December. Once there he will continue as CFCA president, working with the poor of the region. Two former missionaries, Bob and the late Jerry Tolle and two other Hentzen brothers, Bud and the late James Hentzen, founded this non-profit, international Catholic sponsorship organization in 1981. Thanks to many dedicated people, the charitable outreach and ministry of the program is growing tremendously. It costs less than

\$1 a day to sponsor a child.

CFCA now has sponsors for about 70,000 children and elderly persons in 23 countries. In 1995, CFCA raised over \$15 million with 87.6 percent used for program services. Please pray for the success of Hentzen's "Pilgrimage of Faith." Any editorial coverage you might be able to give the Pilgrimage would be wonderful, too.

For more complete information about the Pilgrimage, please contact Anna Fantasma at CFCA headquarters. The number is (800) 875-6564. The address is One Elmwood Ave., Kansas City, KS 66103.

Rev. Timothy K. Ryan
 Primrose Drive, Roswell, Ga.

Wishes Courier had covered pair of pro-life events

To the editors:

Bravo to the *Catholic Courier* for covering the Good Friday anti-death penalty rally at the Liberty Pole.

You should be interested to know that many of the attendants came from a two-hour Pro-life Stations of the Cross which took place Good Friday morning at St. Andrew's Church. The group of over 150, including 18 Priests and Deacons, processed solemnly to Rochester General Hospital to mourn the mothers and children who are victims of abortions there.

The leaders of this pro-life event are to be commended for announcing that cars would be going to the anti-death penalty rally following the Stations. In addition, the opening paragraph of the Pro-life Stations of the Cross press release cited their support of the consistent life ethic and the opposition to war, abortion, the death penalty, and euthanasia.

This was a beautiful example by the Pro-life community to go beyond the spirit of the Consistent Life Ethic. They were making it real through their witness and activism.

Perhaps next year the *Catholic Courier* would not want to miss covering this event as well. It would demonstrate the *Courier's* attempt to capture Rochester Roman Catholics exercising their commitment to this Diocesan Synod recommendation to link together the violence done to all of God's people, rather born or unborn, rather guilty or innocent.

Carol Crossed
 Pickwick Drive
 Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: In the interest of providing readers with coverage on a broad range of issues and events, we deliberately refrain from covering annual events each time they take place. Since we had covered the pro-life stations of the cross on Good Friday of 1995, we chose not to cover the event this year and to cover the death penalty rally instead.

Missed outcry over impending veto

To the editors:

A few months ago, Southport Prison was being considered a place where the death penalty would be administered. That Sunday's Liturgy was completely dedicated to summoning people to action against this idea. The homily forcefully stressed the evils of the death penalty and it even suggested that we picket the Southport site and write to the Governor. Our Prayers of the Faithful included numerous petitions protecting the rights of these prisoners. I applauded the church for taking a strong stand in respect for human life in this regard, however, I find a lack of consistency when it comes to the lives of the unborn.

For a number of weeks, it was known that President Clinton was going to once again use his pen to veto a bill that would

ban late term or partial birth abortions. This procedure is so abhorrent - it goes beyond the pale of all other violations of human rights. According to a number of physicians, "it is death by torture" to the most helpless and defenseless of all human beings.

Yet, not one word was spoken from the pulpit, not one prayer uttered aloud regarding this action, no homilist suggested to write to the President to reconsider. The plight of the unborn seems to worsen! How much longer do we Catholics in this diocese remain asleep? A wise old saying comes to mind: "It isn't just the evil done in the world that is tragic, but that good people stand by and do nothing."

Rita B. Sartori
 West Clinton Street, Elmira

United Way ad was an offense to Catholics

To the editors:

The advertisement for the United Way which appears on Page 5 of the Thursday, April 11th, 1996, issue of the *Courier* must be an offense to all Catholics who know that the United Way supports Planned Parenthood with its advocates of artificial birth control, with abortion as one of its options.

In view of the recent action of President Bill Clinton and his veto of a law which would have outlawed "late term partial birth abortions" - an outcome of the legalizing of abortions in the first place - one would have expected more sensitivity on the part of the Editors in

granting any suggestion of endorsement of the United Way and its policies.

If a person is unfortunate enough to develop any form of cancer, the American Cancer Society is in place and has done great pioneer work in the controlling of this terrible disease. Donations should be sent there directly and not diverted to the United Way to further its dubious practices. And there is always Catholic belief. Our Lord adjured us not only to avoid evil, but to avoid the appearance of evil. As Catholics we have an obligation to uphold and obey His teachings.

Joyce P. Szagiel
 Drummond Street, Auburn

Obituary omitted one of deacon's key activities

To the editors:

The recent *Catholic Courier* obituary of Deacon Michael A. Laluppa, M.D., omitted one of his important involvements in community and Catholic affairs. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Diocesan Festival Choir in the late 1970's and became its first President in 1980 when it was chartered by New York State as a not for profit corporation.

The Diocesan Festival Choir was formed in 1975 by Virginia Hogan, SSJ at the request of the Bishop. Its stated purposes were to preserve and perform the Church's sacred music and to provide additional training for its members - who

were also members of parish choirs. Annual membership varied from 60 to 110 and activities included an annual concert; responding to requests by pastors to sing liturgies at their churches; and singing at ordination Masses and other special Diocesan events.

Doctor Laluppa's willingness to serve the Diocese in the formative years of the DFC was yet another example of the character of this man whose involvement in church and community affairs affected so many people.

Richard B. Blankfield
 Nichols Street
 Spencerport