

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 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.

Catechism holds keys to viewing priesthood

To the editors:

Your article (*Catholic Courier*, April 18: "Waters of baptism consecrate all") emphasized an important aspect of our faith in that we are all called through our Baptism to share in Christ's royal priesthood. However, there is a danger that without a complete understanding of this aspect of our faith one could conclude that since we are all priests, that there is no difference and therefore no need for our ministerial priests. This concern is underscored by Sister Pray's optimism about the fact that there are fewer people responding to the traditional vocation to the priesthood.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church provides a more complete understanding of Christ's royal priesthood. It states that there is one priesthood of Christ but two very distinct and different participations in this priesthood — one the common priesthood of the faithful as exercised through each individual's own vocation and another ministerial or hierarchical priesthood of the bishops and priests.

Although both are ordered to each other, it is emphasized that they are distinctly different. The Catechism states that the traditional vocation to the priesthood is the means by which Christ unceasingly builds up and leads his Church. It further states that through the ecclesiastical services of the ordained minister, it is Christ himself who is present to his Church as Head of his flock, High Priest of the Redemptive Sacrifice, and Teacher of Truth.

This is what the Church means by saying that the priest acts in the Person of Christ. Only through the sacred powers of the priest — not even given to angels or archangels — is Christ made visible in the midst of the community of believers. Certainly, we need more priests among us not less! We need to pray for more traditional vocations. We should pray for our Bishops and Priests and protect them.

Through the Waters of Baptism, our sins are forgiven. This is the fundamental aspect of Baptism that allows each one of



us to be consecrated to Christ and through the sacraments allows each of us to continue our participation in his royal priesthood throughout our lives.

Marvin Mich states that the central question that needs to be asked is "How can the Church achieve its mission, and who can accomplish this?" The Cate-

chism of the Catholic Church is a good place to look for answers. It provides a full and complete understanding of all these aspects of our faith, Baptism, Priesthood, Vocations, and the Mission of the Church.

John Maurer
Washington Avenue, Rochester

Singles omitted from picture

To the editors:

"A picture is worth a thousand words." In the picture accompanying your April 18 article "Waters of Baptism Consecrate All" I see a married couple with child, a religious, and a priest. Where is the representation of someone living the single vocation?

I dare you to do an article on this vocation and the special charism of the single men and women in this diocese who nurture the development of their spirituality and who seek to bring about the Kingdom of God in their interactions

with neighbors, friends, relatives, co-workers, and the larger community.

Mary Joan Bodensteiner
Hanna Lane, Webster

EDITORS' NOTE: The cover story about current understandings of vocations was intended to accompany the Milestones Supplement contained in that issue. That supplement honored individuals and couples who had achieved significant milestones in the three vocations represented in the cover art: priesthood, religious life and marriage. The story made clear, however, that the single state is a valued vocation in the eyes of the church.

Art didn't make sense: Glub, glub

To the editors:

I read and reread the *Catholic Courier* April (18) cover story, but as I turned to its continuation on page 10 I was confused by the illustration. On a black background there are two sets of what appear to be three white balls.

They look like two sets of pawn shop symbols, one large and one small. If so, how do they apply to vocations?

In the event that this is a contest, that's my entry. Otherwise I give up.

Father Raymond G. Heisel

Mother of Sorrows Church
Mt. Read Boulevard, Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: No, Father, it wasn't a contest, just an effort to illustrate an abstract concept. The picture on page 10 was simply a reprise of the background image from the cover illustration — an underwater photo of air bubbles rising to the surface. Unfortunately, no one could tell that by looking at the page.

Since you were the only reader to tell us it didn't make sense, however, you definitely deserve a prize. How 'bout a Courier T-shirt? We guarantee it's bubble-free.

Lincoln bishop shows door to 'heretics, hypocrites'

To the editors:

Richard McBrien's last two columns on Bishop Bruskewitz's warning of excommunication gave me pause for a moment or two questioning just whose side is he on? The answer was, sadly, all too obvious. There are definite contradictions in both columns.

The Bishop has given a clarion call — will the real Catholic please stand up! He has looked out over his flock and in among his sheep he has seen some wolves in sheep's clothing. He has seen parishioners leave the pews of his Church and go attend pro-abortion, pro-suicide, assisted suicide meetings. And we all know our Holy Mother Church does not teach these things, don't we? Now in my book persons who do not believe or follow the doctrines or teachings of the Church they belong to are called heretics — mentioned in the first column as one of the offenses deemed serious enough for expulsion.

In his second column, April 25, McBrien says the Bishop's cure was far worse than the sickness, if such existed. Then he quotes Pope John XXIII as saying the Spouse of Christ prefers to use the medicine of mercy rather than sever-

ity. Well, how can medicine be administered and taken if there is no admission of sickness to begin with?

Bishop Bruskewitz is demonstrating the truth and preaching of our Holy Mother Church. He is not the one breaking the rules and causing conflict. He is teaching the truth as taught by our Savior and Redeemer. Those who go out and act in total opposition to this Faith, yet continue to attend the Catholic Church are hypocrites, to say the least. And we all know what Jesus thought about these "whited sepulchres," don't we?

My daily prayers are for and with that courageous Bishop. His voice is truly that of one crying in the wilderness.

Kay Yankton
Hoffman Street, Auburn



Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz

'Gutsy' Lincoln bishop sends message for us

To the editors:

In reference to Helen Williams' poetic opinion ("Nebraska synod made fate clear") and Father McBrien's column of April 18, I submit the following:

Ms. Williams and that priestly "Mac"
Did hasten forward to attack
The work of Lincoln's Bruskewitz

Who guards the faith from where he sits.

At least, in Lincoln, they have guts
And have no fears about their cuts
But here in Rochester, my friends,
Beware the message Lincoln sends.

George A. Goodwin Jr.
Laredo Drive, Rochester