

# 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.

Letters must not exceed 500 words. Anonymous letters and the use of pseudonyms are unacceptable. We reserve the right to edit letters for legal and other concerns. With respect to errors in submitted text, we will correct spelling only.

Mail letters to: Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your full name, phone number and complete address for purposes of verification.

## Wonders why editorial had no signature

To the editors:

I thoroughly enjoyed the front-page articles about Cardinal John Fisher and (St.) Thomas More in the June 20 edition of the *Courier*. They were excellent reading and very informative. I wish that you would print more articles that recount key events in Church history along with information about some of our many saints and martyrs.

I also enjoyed the editorial "English martyrs set clear example"; it was right on target and sends a clear message. But, how come it was not signed? Letters to the editor have to be signed, don't they? It seems to me that editorials by the staff should also be signed.

**Rodney Discavage**  
Baird Road, Penfield

**EDITORS' NOTE:** It is traditional in the newspaper industry for editorials to be unsigned unless they reflect the views of a single individual. In our case, the editorials are researched and written by one individual (Associate Editor Lee Strong), but drafts of the editorials are reviewed and revised through consultation among the paper's three editors. Hence the final product reflects input from all three *Courier* editors.

## Martyred saints set fine example

To the editors:

Many thanks for your superb article about St. John of Rochester, the patron of our diocese (June 20) and, fortunately, of my own parish. He is surely a saint for our times!

He had the courage to stand up against the popular opinions of the day and to defend the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The Bishop of Rochester, England, and Thomas More chose loyalty to the Pope, and death, rather than bow to the wishes of a king. What great examples they were and continue to be. Obviously, they had never heard of "consensus!"

**Mary Lou Reifsnnyder**  
Mountain Rise, Fairport



## Courier should not have equated death penalty with intrinsic evils

To the editors:

I wish to commend your fine editorial (June 20) noting the inspiring example given today's Catholics by St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More. Indeed, their example of martyrdom for Christ's truths rather than bending to "political or pastoral expediency" sends a message badly needed by Catholics tempted to succumb to the pressures of ideological secularism.

One caveat, however. With regard to the statement to which editorial objection is made: "Personally, I am opposed to — abortion, physician-assisted suicide, capital punishment, etc. — but..." it is false to place capital punishment in the same category of intrinsic evils that are absolutely condemned by the Church. Whether one should promote capital punishment in our society is a matter for prudential judgment and wisdom, but in no wise is capital punishment as such declared intrinsically immoral by the Church. See the Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2266, which explicitly sanctions the State's exercise of capital punishment "in cases of extreme gravity."

Advocates of the "consistent life ethic"

who equate capital punishment with abortion and physician assisted suicide go beyond the teaching of the Catholic Church in condemning all capital punishment.

**James Likoudis**  
Director of Research  
Catholics United for the Faith  
Williamsville

## Fisher cover article was 'unusually good'

To the editors:

Lee Strong has done some fine lead stories for the *Catholic Courier*, but I do believe that his recent piece on St. John Fisher (June 20) was unusually good.

What stood out for me was his skill at clarifying the historical background of both of those English martyrs (i.e., Fisher and More). It's not easy to untangle all the threads that are confusing, but his account was lucid, sparse, non-polemical and well — just a neat piece of work.

**Father Robert J. Kanka**  
St. Ann's Church, Hornell



File photo  
Several readers called anonymously and one (above, right) wrote to complain about publication of this photo from Lima's St. Rose Church. But Father John Philipps (right) says it shows what the church "ought to be."

## 'Disgusted' by photograph of woman in shorts at Mass

To the editors:

I hope that I am not the only one who was disgusted with the photograph of an adult woman wearing shorts to take up the collection at St. Rose Church in Lima (*Catholic Courier*, June 6). Even if it is extremely HOT and HUMID, the coolest clothing women can wear is cotton skirt, dress or skort, especially so at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

An adult woman passing the basket in shorts does set a very bad example as to what is OK — and it is not. Priests wear

vestments even if it's 110 degrees. Now that summer has begun, pastors should inform their parish community that shorts should not be worn to Mass. Where has respect and decency gone — out the window?

Wake up, Catholics!

**Amelia Longo**  
Hawthorne Place, Ithaca

**EDITORS' NOTE:** For more on this subject, look forward to our July 25 cover story, which will consider various opinions on appropriate Mass attire.

## Image symbolizes what church ought to be

To the editors:

The next time the Catholic Press Association is handing out awards (June 6), it should not overlook S. John Wilkin's shot at St. Rose, Lima, in the same issue of the *Catholic Courier*.

Against the beauty of a traditional 19th-century altar and sanctuary — ponderous crucifix, bigger-than-life statues, ornate candlesticks, etc. — a 1) young 2) woman 3) serves 4) in a role formerly as-

signed only to properly attired and often older males.

Your photo symbolizes much of what the Church is and ought to be at the end of the second millennium. It pays tribute to our good neighbors to the west and conveys, again, the usual perspicuity of the *Catholic Courier*.

**Father John J. Philipps**  
St. Bridget's/St. Joseph's Church  
East Bloomfield