

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.

Election calls us to realize responsibility

To the editors:

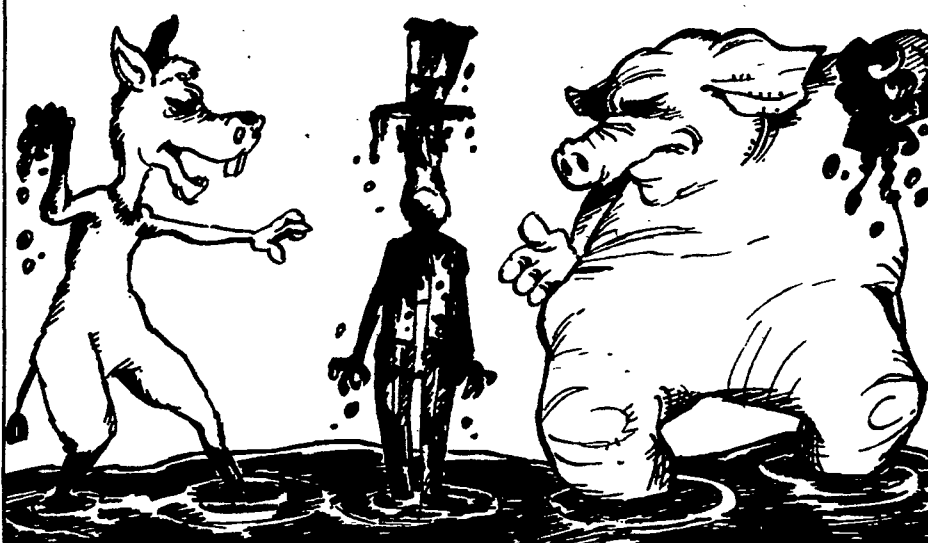
The November elections are just around the corner and there is just one thing all practicing Catholics should be aware of above all else — That each year in this country nearly two million unborn babies are murdered in the wombs of their "mothers."

With the notable exception of the loss of souls, the loss of life is more important than any other issue. This November real Catholics will make the only decision open to them and vote for candidates who are pro-life and who will work to end abortion in this country. It makes no difference if candidates will double their salary, lower their taxes or give each citizen a bonus each year. A real Catholic will not be lowered into the "Judas syndrome" and vote for these candidates unless they are pro-life. They will remember the inexorable and inflexible Catholic moral principle that "you may not do evil that good may come from it," because it never does. And to vote for a candidate who is pro-choice (i.e. pro-abortion) is an abominable and heinous evil, period.

Fellow Catholics, remember your special calling to be of the one true faith and the awesome responsibility that goes with this privilege. Let us vote only for pro-life candidates and not cease doing so until this wretched and diabolical abortion is at an end.

Richard V. Hussar
Jordan Avenue, Rochester

KING



Church teachings enlighten

To the editors:

As Christians, one of the big issues facing us today is dealing with the issue of homosexuality. I think many of us find it difficult to deal with it because we are presented with only one option — if we are to be Christ followers and love homosexual persons, we are also expected to accept their sexual lifestyle.

Homosexuality is not a neutral human trait like being left-handed and for homosexual people I'm sure it is a very strong part of their being.

An article in the August issue of the *St. Anthony Messenger* magazine (p. 48) states it very well. It says that (as Christians) we must love the homosexual person as we are to love all people. "The Church can reach out to offer homosexual persons respect, friendship and justice." It also says

that "the response of the Church to these problems is that she cannot condone this lifestyle."

As for marriage among homosexuals, our Catholic faith teaches us that marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman for the well-being of the spouses and for the procreation and upbringing of children.

Our Church also teaches us that sexual activity is still part of the sacrament of marriage and as such is reserved for that state in life, again for the benefit of the spouses and for the procreation and raising of children.

These are basic Christian teachings that still are the truths of Christianity. God Bless.

Rodney Discavage
Baird Road, Penfield

Animals, too, worthy of moral concerns

To the editors:

The Humane Society of the United States and the American Anti-Vivisection Society report that 8 to 12 million animals are killed yearly to be dissected in our classrooms and that an estimated 75 percent of American students are at some point expected to dissect at least one animal.

Schools administered by the Rochester Diocese would be setting a good example if they used more humanistic — and in the long run, less expensive — teaching methods such as lifelike three-dimensional plastic models with removable parts and interactive computer programs.

There is no real assurance that the killings of the animals are done painlessly.

The decline in frog populations, due in large part to their widespread use for dissection, has permitted the multiplication of crop-eating insects that frogs ordinarily eat, resulting in crop destruction and increased use of dangerous pesticides.

cides.

The animals are preserved with toxic chemicals. Mt. Saint Mary College in New York was recently fined \$20,000 for exposing employees to formaldehyde (a suspected carcinogenic) and infectious substances. One New York court found another school liable for chemical burns and chronic health problems a student suffered after dissecting a preserved animal.

Serial killer and child molester Jeffrey Dahmer said that cutting up animals in school was the beginning of his fascination with death. On the other hand, dissection requirements have prompted some students, who might have become fine doctors, nurses or scientists, to change career goals rather than to do something they believed was wrong.

Adelphi University biology professor George Russell writes in a recent article that dissection "not only fails to promote reverence for life but encourages the tendency to blaspheme it."

A New York law, enacted in 1994, gives

public school students the right to request alternatives to dissection but schools are not required to notify students of this law. Even when students obtain required parental consent to their requests, teachers still retain discretion to determine that alternative learning methods are not feasible. Furthermore, the law exempts colleges and all private schools.

The fact that some schools, including medical colleges, have stopped using animals for dissection or vivisection demonstrates that it is not necessary to use animals for such purposes.

I greatly admire Bishop Matthew Clark for the strong stands he has taken on a number of human rights issues, but I am disappointed that the Bishop has not spoken up on animal cruelty issues. Human beings are not the only species on our planet worthy of moral consideration.

For further information about Christian perspectives on animal protection, readers are urged to contact Rev. Frances Arnetta, President, Christians Helping Animals and People, Inc., P.O. Box 272, Selden, N.Y. 11784.

Joel Freedman
North Main Street, Canandaigua

Examine conscience before voting

To the editors:

I cannot imagine how any Catholic can consider re-electing Clinton to hold the highest office in this country. How can a true Catholic pray to God and want to follow the teachings of Jesus and at the same time elect a man who allows it to be legal to murder partially born babies? Catholics need to be morally responsible when they vote for all elected officials who will make decisions which will affect the morality of the nation.

Also they should consider the image the President portrays and what he stands for, as he is an example to our children. When children see the President lying, womanizing, legalizing abortion, talking casual about drugs, etc., they see those things as acceptable and it couldn't affect their future. After all, the American people

elect Clinton as President and look at everything he was involved in before he was elected and during the past four years, and people still want him.

When people can say that the Character of a person doesn't matter in order to be President, what kind of message does that send our children?

Before you vote, examine your conscience and be sure you can feel morally satisfied that you did the right thing. I can only suggest that you ask yourself, "Who would God vote for?" I cannot believe that God would vote for Clinton, because God is Pro-Life. Any Catholics who are pro-choice are going against God's Word, and are not truly Catholic.

Kathleen Centola
Erie Station Road, Henrietta

'God talk' essential to our everyday lives

To the editors:

Re: making space for "God talk." I have come to believe that one of our most critical problems is the absence of quiet time in our daily life.

I believe, therefore, that we should — seek it individually, increase our efforts to make it available to others, and deliberately and, with conviction, teach it to whomever will listen.

Humbly, I seek your accord.

Betty A. Zielinski
Seward Street, Dansville