

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 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.

Anticipates day science 'catches up'

To the editors:

I was deeply saddened to read about the Pope's recent statement that evolution was "more than a hypothesis." I am more saddened to see evolution being taught in schools and to see intelligent adults accepting this outdated theory which defies all logic and violates mathematical, biological and geological principles and observations.

As the latest scientific information is publicized, the case for spontaneous beginnings of life and the idea that one species life form changes into another species life form becomes more and more ridiculous. Also, as we learn that some past information has been "doctored" or altered to support the evolution theory, we can learn to better scrutinize that which is presented. Science will eventually help confirm what faith and common sense has always known: that the universe was "designed" by a great "designer." The indescribable complexity of it all confirms this fact. No one would say that his

TV set or computer "evolved" over a period of time from an atom. Man was its designer. How much more is a single cell, more complex than anything that man can produce, with the added incomprehensible dimension of life, a product of extraordinary knowledge and planning?

Recently, more and more scientists have been willing to "disown" the theory of evolution. At a convention in Chicago a few years ago, over 300 attendees were willing to agree that evolution was "bankrupt." NBC did a "special" on this new trend and aired the interviews they did with top scientists who came to this same conclusion. Dr. Hubert Yacke, one of the foremost molecular biologists in the world recently wrote an article in "The Journal of Theoretical Biology" and related the scientific evidence that points to the fact that all life came from previous life.

As the age of the universe and of the earth and of man's appearance decrease with the latest information and calcula-

tions, it leaves no time, mathematically, to ever have enough "mutations" to create new species. While variations exist within species — i.e. size, color, weight distribution, etc. — mutations are quite normally a cause of death or inability of a creature to reproduce. Also, there are no confirmed "missing links" among man's "ancestors," Australapithicus, Java Man, Peking Man, Neanderthal and the like have been crossed off the list by most reputable scientists.

Charles Darwin was an atheist. His grandfather, who first designed the "Evolution Tree," was a member of a lunar cult which was trying to explain away God. Instead of turning to these men, let us turn to the Scriptures and ask God for the faith to believe what the Holy Spirit reveals about creation, the wisdom to understand it, and the patience to wait for Science to "catch up" with the truth.

Anne Bartholomew
Woodlyn Way
Penfield

Wants church to reallocate contributions, building uses

To the editors:

The diocese did not hesitate to consolidate schools and eliminate some very good, sustaining neighborhood schools that were part of the community and community spirit. Now they should go a step further and consolidate church contributions. It seems totally unfair to have one church receive weekly contributions in the neighborhood of \$15,000 and a neighboring church forced to maintain its buildings and grounds with a collection of about \$5,000. Contributions should be consolidated thus eliminating undue pressure on one pastor over another because of the racial, ethnic or economic conditions of the congregation which results in lower weekly contributions.

I also wonder how serious we all are when it comes to helping the homeless. Due to the consolidation of parishes throughout our diocese, there are any number of convents, rectories, and perhaps schools which are empty, half-filled, or rented out to other organizations. All of these buildings could be put to use to house those who have nowhere to go. Last year, I called a number of churches of different denominations and I asked them if they could take any of the homeless, but they all had excuses, some of which may have been legitimate. However, we do have buildings that are not being used to full capacity while there are people without decent housing. It is a sham to ask people to dig into their pockets to help the poor and the afflicted when the church has some means of alleviating the conditions which enslave the poverty-stricken. Let us put our Christianity to work.

Florence Goodwin
Laredo Drive, Rochester

Contact representatives now on critical bills

To the editors:

Yes, we can ban partial-birth abortions in New York State! Our State Senate has voted to ban partial-birth abortions, so write or call your New York State Assembly member and tell him or her you want partial-birth abortions banned in New York State. Your library can give you the person's name and address...

And on the federal level, the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act already



Seeks leadership on abortion

To the editors:

I read each letter with interest and an open mind, but sometimes I do not agree with all of them. I have to comment on the letters of Nov. 14 from Joseph A. F. Valenti and Dianna Richmond Ives.

Mr. Valenti could not have put my sentiments any better than he has stated. Granted we are seeing a decline in vocations but we do not need to see a decline in the reverence and availability of all the sacraments. There clearly is an attempt in our diocese to minimize the functions of the priesthood. We all know where this is happening but are reluctant to speak out. Many priests do not wish to retire at 70 years — they are still active and could con-

tinue to manage as pastor. If they had a choice, there may still be a few more priests to help the decline. Let the priest make his decision, not be dictated to.

As for the letter from Dianna Ives the clergy and lay ministers are all doing a good job. Well, how about our bishop, other bishops are up front and doing a fantastic job of leadership. Yes he has other commitments that need his attention. Are any more or less important than the abortion issue? As quoted from Pope John Paul II "we need not be afraid," Pope John is leading us, we need a closer leader in our diocese.

Lottie Angelo
Waterloo

Election season was the best, worst

To the editors:

I am sure that the results of the 1996 presidential election were a great disappointment to many Christian people. It seemed that America had a clear choice: integrity vs. devjousness; probity vs. skulduggery; honesty vs. chicanery; etc., etc. America seems to have made the wrong choice. We seem to be becoming a nation of self-interested cynics who vote with our bellies — if we bother to vote at all. It is no

wonder that American is becoming an immoral, pagan cesspool where life is cheap and vice is rampant. We are truly living in the end times when evil seems to triumph. Perhaps this millennium will coincide with the Second Coming.

I am sure that the results of the 1996 presidential election were a great joy to many Christian people. It seemed that America had a clear choice: rigidity vs. flexibility; old solutions vs. creative choices; looking backward vs. looking forward, etc., etc. America has made the right choice. We are becoming a nation of politically sophisticated people who know how to make participative democracy work. It is no wonder America is becoming a more civilized nation where patient building of compromise is replacing polarizing rhetoric. We are truly living in the best of times where there is a real chance for bi-partisan cooperation in seeking to solve the nation's problems.

I voted for Bill Clinton.

Father Robert L. Collins
East Avenue, Rochester

Mary Rita Crowe
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