

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.

Readers react to columnist's views

To the editors:

Enough is enough! I have read Richard McBrien's columns in your paper far too long now. Please discontinue this disservice to your diocesan faithful as soon as possible. His dissenting verbiage and dividing opinion, fostered in new-age Jesuit Modernism, can no longer be tolerated.

This man is extremely unhappy and angry as evidenced by his constant complaining and whining about authority. His writings depict a disgruntled, dissatisfied and egotistical countenance which resembles Martin Luther at his prime. The only thing his divisive, hidden diatribes lack is a concise agenda tacked onto a church door, such as the 39 Thesis. He is too smart to do this however, as his income would be immediately abrogated, and he would be out on the street in his business suit!

I have been reading his dialogues for five years now, but his latest dissertation has really heightened my pique. His rantings against authority, particularly John Paul II's papacy, are tantamount to insubordination. Depicting the Holy Father as an elephant in the living room, and planning and counting on the circumstances of his eventual demise is blatant poor taste and disrespect. The League of Catholic Bishops in the United States has refused to sanction McBrien's writings, particularly his explanations of the church's teachings and catechism. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing, eagerly licking his chops in anticipation of further dividing the Church. He will not be happy until he succeeds in disintegrating the organization into multiple sects, much like Protestantism. He is not the only one of his ilk however, but he is in our newspaper so please remove him!

The (column) of Sept. 19 by Karen Franz, lionizes McBrien on the basis of two letters to the editor by so called enlightened readers - one anonymous. Karen states that she has been requesting opinions on what the readership would like to hear and learn. The answer is unbelievably right under her nose in the inspired and enlightened writings of Father Albert Sha-



mon who is (a weekly contributor to the paper). This man's offerings are truly eloquent, simple in nature and devotional. His composition and lessons are Scriptural and true to Church teachings. He has been given a gift that transforms his writings into the bread of angels, brought down to earth for us mortals to feed on and digest. After reading this weekly offering, a sense of calmness, intuitiveness and love prevails over the reader.

Our newspaper subscribers do not realize what a treasure we have in our midst! Please continue the good work of the Lord, Father Shamon, and Karen Franz, please do your part also.

Joseph Wasileski
East Lake Road
Auburn

EDITORS' NOTE: Characterizing the two McBrien supporters as "enlightened" is Mr. Wasileski's doing, not that of Ms. Franz.

Please continue presenting balanced, informative views

To the editors:

Please be sure to continue to carry Father Richard McBrien's column weekly. It is the first thing I read, and have found it to be very informative and balanced. It is essential for our people to be exposed to someone of this stature. We need rea-

To the editors:

In response to your article by Staff Writer Rob Cullivan (*Catholic Courier*, Oct. 24: "Columnist scorns conservative faction"), I feel I must respond. In the very first paragraph Father Richard McBrien, professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, (is paraphrased as saying), "Church conservatives 'lost' at the second Vatican Council and have been trying to stem its reforms ever since." I beg to differ, we have not lost anything, you have! I believe in the Second Vatican Council. What I don't believe in is the radical interpretation of it! Many Cardinals and Bishops have, for their own agenda, put their own twist and have deliberately misled the faithful.

We do not denounce dialogue among conservatives, moderates and liberals, we embrace it. Only through dialogue can we state what Vatican II really said. We do not want the liberals to leave the Church, but we are not Protestant and we won't be forced into believing in some form of it within the Roman Catholic Church!

Father McBrien's attack on Pope John Paul II is another signal of the radical nature and untrue misrepresentation of our dear Pope. Our Pope did not do anything against the wishes of anybody. He made his decision after much prayer and contemplation. But the liberal Cardinals and Bishops could not accept it and publicly criticized him. Not a very Christian way to act.

Finally, I would follow our Pope across the world, but I would not follow you across the street!

John S. Wakefield
East Lake Road
Livonia

soned and open discussion of issues which are current, and McBrien provides this to the diocese.

Enjoy the *Courier* weekly.

Mildred A. McAnany
Erie Avenue
Hornell

Socializing in church shows lack of respect

To the editors:

Remember when the tabernacle was in the center of the Sanctuary, in the place of high honor? Remember when RESPECT was something we had for the Church and all those who belonged to it?

One of the plagues engulfing the Catholic Church today is a lack of respect for the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus

Christ in the tabernacle. We were taught at a very early age that He is present in every tabernacle of the world.

There are still many people who go to church early enough before Mass to pray. God is everywhere, but what more fitting place to honor and speak to Him than in His own house? We should be going there to see Him and hear His Word pro-

claimed by His representative in our parish, the priest.

Talking in church is something that shows the lack of respect for the Eucharistic Presence as well as for those trying to pray. In many instances, those there with us are from another parish and may have to come to "Compare Notes" on how things are done in another parish. Most people who find it necessary to talk in Our Lord's Presence don't even have the common courtesy to whisper what is so vitally important to pass along. For some reason, those who are the most active in the parish seem to consider themselves exempt from silence. What a great example to visitors, the children and those looking up to them! Most churches have a gathering area that, admittedly, is not a part of the Sanctuary, but is in close enough proximity to the congregation that prayer is not possible when everybody gets socializing.

Let's get back to the basics we learned many years ago. The church is a place of prayer and solemnity. It is the place where Christ is present and where the Sacraments are received. Do the talking, laughing, plan-making, weather forecasting and health updates outside. Before the Church starts teaching our children how important it is to be "a part of the community," we need to teach everyone that it starts with respect for others and, more importantly, respect for Our Lord. Let's teach everyone not to talk in Church.

John J. Niziurski Jr.
Sherwood Drive
Hilton

Focus on seeing Jesus' love in others, not on church division, disagreement

To the editors:

Every week, I sit down with the current issue of the *Courier* and turn to the Letters section. I then read with amazement how often we Catholics disagree with each other. If it weren't for my faith in Jesus Christ and my great love for His Church, I would become disheartened.

When I speak of my great love for His Church, I am speaking of all of you who are reading this and all of you who aren't. I am speaking to those of you I disagree with and those of you who disagree with me. I am speaking to you who wear shorts to Mass and to you who wear your Sunday best. I am speaking to all of you.

We are all one body in Christ - what a statement of love that is. Our differences seem to cloud that love - we fail to recognize Jesus' love for us in each other and through our Holy Church by her teachings. And we fail to recognize our oneness with Jesus and His Church.

Jesus Christ has given us the ultimate

gift of Love: Himself in the Blessed Sacrament. At every moment, in every tabernacle throughout the world, Jesus is there, really present in the Blessed Sacrament calling each of us to spend time with Him, to love Him and to allow Him to love us. To quote St. Peter Julian Eymard, "Jesus is there, go to Him!" Kneel before Him, pour out your heart to Him, love Him and in the silence of your soul, be aware of His Presence, rest in His loving arms and listen to Him. You will come to realize just how caught up we all are in unimportant matters and forget what's really important - our eternal salvation as children of God.

I thank God for our one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church and I thank Him for all of you, the many members of the one Body, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I cherish my Catholic faith and all of you - pearls from the hand of Our Lord.

Ann B. Fogarty
Crabapple Drive, Canandaigua