

# OPINIONS

## A balanced report

To the editors:

Mike Latona is to be commended for his impartial and balanced report on the Call to Action controversy (Jan. 23 *Courier*). He presents the viewpoints of the CTA group which can only be interpreted as unequivocally anti-Papal and dissident. Re-read their views if any doubt exists. Opposition to the adherents of CTA is also presented.

The one dilemma engendered by the report is the position of Bishop Clark as reflected by his comments. While maintaining his allegiance to the Holy Father and the Vatican his statements referring to CTA indicate an element of incongruity — a study in contradiction in view of CTA's public and explicit anti-Papal position.

Bishop Bruskwitz's emphatic and definitive reaction to this "church reform" group is more imperative and laudable in defense of the Deposit of Faith.

A. J. Annunziata  
Holiday Drive, Horseheads

## Can't understand

To the editors:

The article on Call to Action stated that many of the group's views "not only oppose directives of Pope John Paul II, but also question the infallibility of papal decrees." According to the article, Call to Action is "a group that is supported by Rochester Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and whose membership includes a number of priests from the Rochester diocese."

Later, the article says that "Bishop Clark stated that he cannot endorse any proposal that directly opposes Vatican rulings." I don't understand how Bishop Clark can, on the one hand, say that he does not endorse proposals that go contrary to Vatican rulings and, on the other hand, support a group that espouses views that do just that — go contrary to Vatican rulings and Church teaching.

Raymond N. Buonemanni  
Holcroft Road, Rochester

## Revealing view

To the editors:

Your front page article by Mike Latona on January 23 was very revealing. I had recently seen Call to Action in action on television. What I saw and heard was some very angry rhetoric against authority in the Church and a pagan ceremony. It struck me as amusing at the time, until I read in your article that our Bishop and Shepherd admires these people and may attend their Conference next year. Wow! What a jolt and very frightening to say the least.

The question is — What is going on? The pieces are beginning to fit the puzzle and a disturbing picture is emerging. To all unaware Catholics I say — WAKE-UP! OREMUS.

Dorothy Prinzi  
Nile Drive, Rochester

## Opposite philosophies

To the editors:

The front page article about Call to Action should certainly serve as an education for the average Catholic who has been confused about what has really been going on in the Church today.

One might wonder just how it happens that such opposite philosophies can exist. It is obvious that Call to Action is driven by an "American" mentality, fueled by the feminist movement with their selfish motives.

It is difficult to understand why anyone would want to be associated with the Catholic Church if their loyalties are not based in Rome.

Mary Lou Reifsnnyder  
Mountain Rise, Fairport

# Waves of reaction to 'Call' article

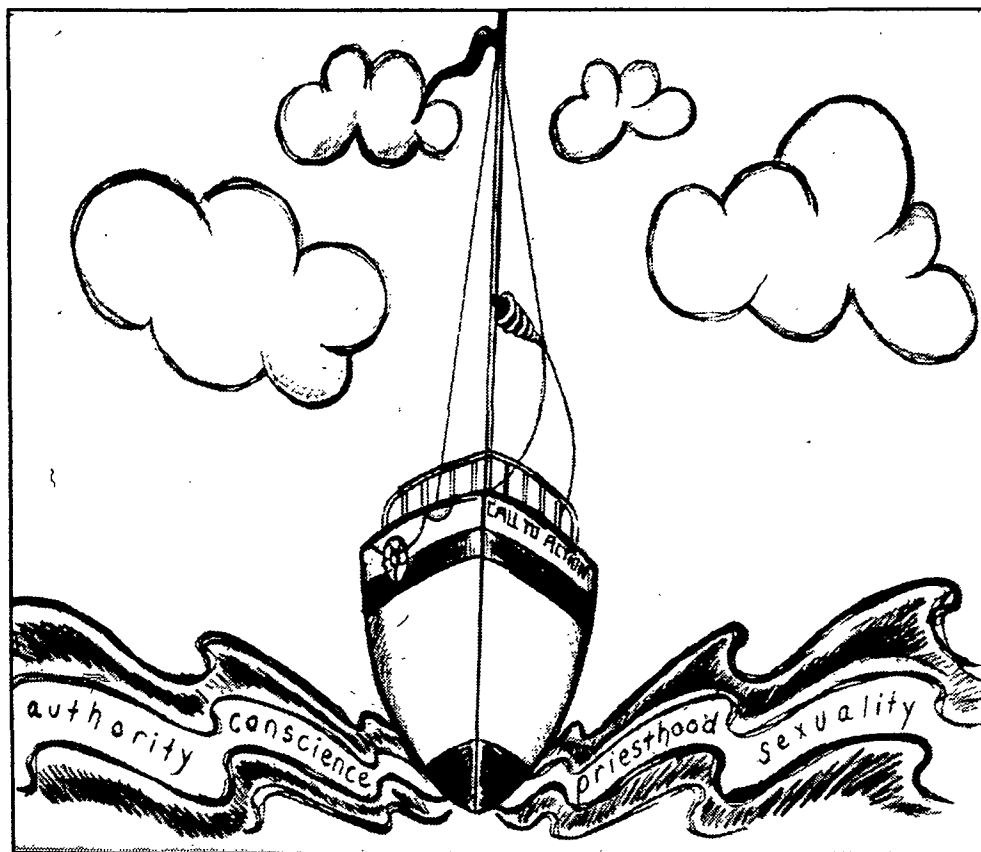
## Group bears no similarity to Catholicism

To the editors:

The Jan. 23 article in the *Catholic Courier* on Call to Action is one of the sad signs of our times. By challenging the hierarchical structure of the Catholic Church, this group has chosen to follow the Modernist philosophy condemned by Pope St. Pius X. It promotes a creedless church in which everyone is encouraged to follow his or her own conscience based on feelings rather than truth. It has chosen to ignore the Second Vatican Council's statement in *Dei Verbum* which declared, "... The task of authentically interpreting the Word of God ... has been entrusted exclusively to the living teaching office of the Church" (9).

By rejecting the hierarchical structure of the Church, it has also challenged the Council-document *Lumen Gentium* which affirmed the necessity of following the leadership of the Holy Father, who, by virtue of his office, "has full, supreme and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered" (22).

Call to Action is an organization that is agenda driven, admittedly aimed at feminist empowerment. It trivializes the Eucharist as a communal meal, emphasizes the priesthood of the Baptized and ignores the importance of Holy Orders. It endorses behaviors that directly contra-



dict the official teachings of the Catholic Church and proposes to "liberate God's Word" from the bondage of Scripture. It was reported that the recent Detroit conference had chants and New Age rituals that paid homage to the pagan god Baal and various "spirit-filled traditions." This does not resemble anything even remotely Catholic.

At a time when the Rochester diocese is struggling with the shortage of ordained priests it is troubling that some would focus on this group rather than on

dioceses that have been successful in attracting men to the priesthood. The Catholic Church exists to teach the truths of our faith and to encourage personal holiness through love of God and love of neighbor. This is achieved through prayer, fasting, confessing our sins and worthy and frequent reception of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. This is the sure route to everlasting life, a goal to which we all aspire.

Dolores B. Vining  
Black Watch Trail, Fairport

## Article, illustration depict enemy vessel

To the editors:

The "Call to Action" article/sketch (*Courier*, Jan. 23) brought to mind the visions/prophesies of St. John Bosco. In Bosco's vision, he saw the Pontiff standing at the helm of a ship trying to steer it between two columns (Eucharist and Mary) amidst troubled waters and might blows. The boat in the *Courier* sketch reminded me of an enemy boat firing torpedos at the Church's authority especially as it pertains to the priesthood, sexuality.

The article states that "members claim to be working for the betterment of their faith." Faith in what? Clearly not faith in the Catholic Church as handed down from Peter! Call to Action endorses the notion that as society changes, Catholics must also move forward instead of backward.

Moving forward seems to mean moving toward heresy, relativism, rationalism and blatant disobedience! If they could only see that we DO move forward with every prayer, every Mass, every Baptism, Confirmation and every ordination. Every act of love moves us closer to His Kingdom come upon earth!

In the opinion of Bishop Clark, "...in this era of the Church if we are going to sin we should sin on the side of inclusiveness and dialogue...". Bishop, why must we sin at all in the area of our Catholicity? Truth is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow — even in a changeable society.

No amount of dialogue will ever change the Truth as handed down from the apostles and locked into place today by the Holy Father with the keys of Peter.

As for inclusiveness, we can only follow Christ by including ALL people of every background into our hearts while never including their sin into our creed!

The last paragraph of the article ponders what Jesus might say if He were to return soon. Consider this scenario, Ms. Pieczynski: "Blessed are you who have heard the word of God and have kept it

despite unpopularity and persecution. Away with you who have come forth with a new gospel — built upon the idols of rationalism, relativism and intellectualism. Away with you into the eternal fire pre-

pared for you and your false doctrines and idols. You have used My Name but never knew me."

Lena Shipley  
East Avenue, Waterloo

## Puzzled by desire to remain

To the editors:

It is puzzling that the Call to Action members are so determined to stay in a Church they obviously despise. They could simply move to any one of a smorgasbord of Protestant Churches where Papal infallibility is derided, abortion rights, contraception, homosexuality, married priests and women clergy are the norm. It might be a little harder to find a Christian Protestant Church which practices "inclusion of the laity and clergy in the formulation of Church doctrine and discipline." Most Churches believe that Jesus came to teach us weak and sinful humans; not that we should vote on what we want to be taught. Of course, with a little diligence they could probably locate one.

I would certainly expect the Vatican to oppose such a program, and not look at it as a sinister refusal of "human rights." You do not have to be a Catholic. Choose

a Church that satisfies you.

Ms. Pieczynski says that Jesus said to "feed my lambs, feed my sheep." It is very doubtful that He was talking about Church suppers. We are fed rather with the rich spiritual food that He entrusted to His Church when He turned to St. Peter and said, "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven" (Matt. 16:18). They've really tried, those gates of Hell, but after nearly 2,000 years the Church still prospers. What we need indeed is call to holiness, not the dismantling of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Doris Pace  
Strong Hall, Keuka Park

## New understanding fuels change

To the editors:

Your story on Call to Action is excellent.

You raise clear issues. For example, the opening of the priesthood to married men and to women. This denial may change with a positive vision upon the dawn of the third millennium and to Revelation XX during which holiness is to be triumphant.

During a recent talk with a Professor from the Seminary, Dublin, Ireland, our visiting group was told that the school

now questions young men on the norms of human sexual development as it relates to the realism of celibacy.

The emphasis on this subject throughout the world, and western world in particular, will influence the pronouncements from near future Popes.

Change is slow but inevitable as evidenced by former Episcopalian clergy who now are accepted Roman Catholic married priests.

Joseph P. Leahey  
Valois