

# 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.

## Debate continues over guild's view

### To the editors:

George J. Pfeifer's letter in the June 26 issue of the *Courier* needs some Christian brotherly correction in several areas.

First, he is concerned about the "legalistic approach" to our faith shown in the paid advertisement by the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild regarding the teaching of the Church on homosexuality. The "rambling collection of six citations" he refers to is nothing more than the simple unchanging truths as taught by the Church from its foundation reduced to writing so that all of the faithful may know for certain what the Gospel message actually teaches us.

Second, he is concerned that, since Christ did not utter the teaching on homosexuality Himself, that the position presented by the Lawyers Guild is unsupported. This view of interpreting Sacred Scripture is prevalent in non-Catholic circles and is simply wrong. Christ founded a Church with the authority to teach inerrantly on matters of faith and morals and to interpret Sacred Scripture. He said, "he who hears you hears me." When the Church teaches, Christ is teaching!

Third, he refers to the Lawyers' advertisement as "divisive thinking." Well Mr. Pfeifer, if it is divisive to present the full truth of the Gospel message, then so be it! The truth is a cause of division and was even proclaimed as such by Christ himself: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth ... For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, ... and one's enemies will be those of his household."

Love, the most important of the theological virtues, has more than just a compassionate and caring side to it — it must also be truthful. Truth without compassion and caring can be a harsh and cold reality, but a reality nevertheless. On the other hand, compassion and caring without the truth lulls people into a false sense of security and is simply a lie. True love, however, the love we are all called to in the Gospel message, brings compassion, caring, AND truth to bear on each and every situation.

**Mike Gallagher**  
West Church Street, Fairport

## Applauds stories on enjoying life

### To the editors:

Even though I always enjoy the *Courier*, the Issue of June 12 made an unusual impression on me. The articles which I found most enjoyable were

1. "King Lear offers lessons for graceful aging"
2. "Humor helps us to remain balanced"
3. "Great things happen from small beginnings"

These excellent articles are very good pieces of writing because of the advice, suggestions and ideas. Each article was encouraging, about life and how to enjoy life. Overcoming "stress" in our lives leads to a "balance" that could lead to a healthier outlook on our complicated lives. Father Hemrick's presentation of the "humor" in our lives could present a cure for ill-feelings, misunderstanding and the belief that only when we reach Heaven, will complete harmony be attained, thus leading to a more peaceful and happier outlook.

I congratulate the *Courier* on these three contributors:

Father Hemrick, Father Shamon and Rob Cullivan, staff writer.

Please continue their worthwhile columns.

Thank you for recognizing good pieces of writing.

**Mary Elizabeth Fritsch**  
Dewey Avenue, Rochester

### To the editors:

The Editors' Note that followed Jan Fredericks' opinion in the *Catholic Courier* (July 10) deserves a response. Mr. Fredericks wrote about the *Catholic Courier* not printing a letter submitted by the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild.

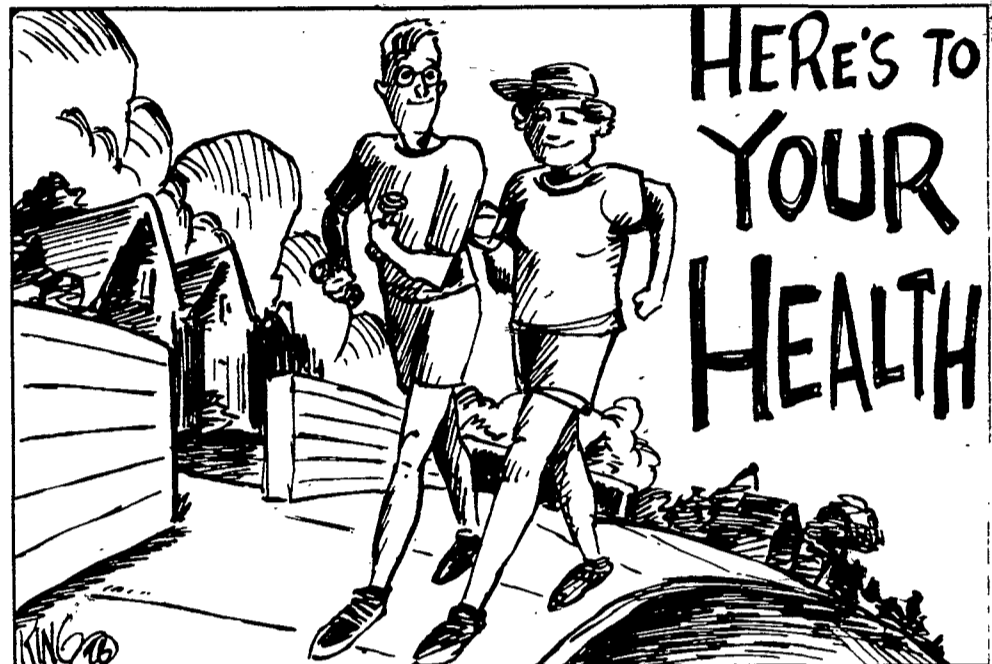
The Editors' Note stated that "the *Catholic Courier* was open to publishing the guild's views, just not on the guild's terms. Our longstanding policy limits letters to the editors to 500 words. Guild leaders sought to evade that limitation by buying an advertisement."

The Editors' Note sounded hollow

when I realized that on the very same opinion page was another letter that was well over the 500-word limitation that the Editors' Note cited as the reason the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild letter was not published.

**Raymond N. Buonemani**  
Holcroft Road, Rochester

*EDITORS' NOTE: Good point. We didn't notice that Father Jim Hewes' letter was about 35 percent over our 500-word limit. So much for gauging length by eye. The guild's statement, however, exceeded the limit by almost 150 percent. That was hard to miss.*



## Social ills prompt questions

### To the editors:

How come Bubba Clinton is still in the White House, even though he is under investigation for allegedly committing various crimes, including sexual harassment? Why is he so vocal in speaking out on the harmful effects of smoking yet will not sign an anti-abortion bill to stop the killing of babies?

How can a young girl be prosecuted for killing her newborn child when a doctor can commit the same crime by injecting a lethal solution or by crushing the skull when the infant is just a few weeks away from birth?

Why are some judges still on the bench even though they have rendered decisions that strain one's credibility?

Why aren't there more TV evangelists, local ministers and priests speaking out against our societal problems, especially when they can influence children by set-

ting wrong examples or sending the wrong messages, i.e., very young teenage girls being the sexual aggressor in their relationships with their boyfriends in sitcoms?

Why are young children and teenagers committing robbery, rape, and murder, seemingly without conscience? I thought I would include this question even though I already know the answer.

Why aren't schools using stricter disciplinary measures when needed?

Why do sitcoms and stand-up comedians and comedienne have to resort to sleaze to get laughs when there are so many alternatives?

When one considers that which is taking place in our society today, I felt it necessary to ask these questions.

**William R. McLaughlin**  
Sage Street North  
Horseheads

## Infrequent reader ponders slogan

### To the editors:

I had occasion to visit the Pastoral Center recently on a business related matter. While waiting to meet a member of the staff, I noticed several *Catholic Courier* bumper stickers which boldly proclaimed, "... Because life isn't always black and white."

I was amused, and wish to add my reply, via your editorial page: "nor is life as GRAY as some would have us believe!"

At a time where moral relativism and situational ethics confuse the faithful and unfaithful alike, the philosophy promoted by your bumper sticker does little to illuminate. Although I am not a regular reader of your publication, it is my hope that the *Courier* is a bastion of the faith and a guiding light for the faithful, in full communion with our Pope and the Magisterium.

**Donald Patrick Dunn**  
Chatelaine Drive, Webster

*EDITORS' NOTE: Readers' opinions doubtless vary on whether we are a bastion of the faith and a guiding light for the faithful.*

*The slogan originated from readership-study data indicating that subscribers turn to the *Courier* to obtain the Catholic perspective on secular issues that may seem, at least superficially, to be morally ambiguous.*

## Blessed Sacrament deserves central spot in our churches, lives

### To the editors:

Just a few comments on Father Albert Shamon's column of May 29.

The Blessed Sacrament should be in the middle of our Churches, and not in some corner or isolated place. As children, we were taught that Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament. So let's pray that Christ will be placed back in the center of Church, a place which is rightfully His Our Living and True God.

**Eleanor Probst**  
Lake Road North, Brockport