

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.

More on McVeigh, death penalty

Took offense to Fr. Hewes' Iraq analogy

To the editors:

I strongly disagree with Father Jim Hewes (*Catholic Courier*, July 10: "Views McVeigh as product of culture"). He makes it sound like we picked on a little country instead of a small country being invaded by a dictator. Kuwait had a very small military force. Iran had the sixth largest air force and the fourth largest army in the world. His forces included 5,530 main battle tanks, 7,500 armored vehicles, 3,500 pieces of artillery and 1,800 surface to surface missiles. The Iraqi air defense was formidable with as many as 17,000 surface to air missiles and about 10,000 anti-aircraft guns linked with high tech equipment.

We were lucky our losses were not greater. We were trying to stop another Adolf Hitler. If someone had stood up to him when he invaded the Rhineland we would not have had WWII with loss of millions of lives.

I don't know how old Father Hewes is, but if he's old enough to have fought for the United States in WWII he wouldn't talk like he's doing. This country has always tried to help any country fighting for its freedom.

Our military tried as hard as a nation could to avoid civilian deaths. And always remember these are the same people who killed the Kurds with poison gas and tortured many thousands of Kuwaitis to death.

I don't remember Father Hewes talking about what any of these people suffered.

It's also a known fact that Saddam Hussein also planned to take over Saudi Arabia so he would control 50 percent of the world's oil. I wonder if Father Hewes would still feel sorry for these people if he couldn't drive his car and all college students might have to walk.

I think 90 percent of the American people approved this action because they realized another dictator had to be stopped before he started trying to take over control of a very vital part of the world to all nations. That's why we had so many allies.

Father Jim Hewes ought to be thankful there's a country like the United States which stopped communism or the Catholic Church would have been wiped out like it was in Russia.

I get very tired of seeing members of the Catholic Church running our country down. What ever happened to priests like Father Duffy of New York City's fighting 69 division he was a patriot as well as a priest.

Where would the Catholic Church be today without the United States of America.

As a soldier who fought in combat for this country, I no longer can stand to have a paper delivered to my house that's always printing articles against my country.

Please to not send this paper to my house any more.

Bernard J. Byrnes
Sunset Street
Rochester

Urges regular Mass intentions for vocations

To the editors:

Apparently we are not praying hard enough, often enough, or seriously enough to alleviate the priest shortage in our Rochester Diocese.

To counteract this, how wonderful it would be if the intention for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, and the religious life, were added



Ethicist debated 'deterrence'

To the editors:

Regarding the controversy, I wanted you to know what the late ethicist of Oxford, England, John L. Mackie had to say about it in his book *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*. Quoting Mackie, "The pre-arranged killing of someone at a stated time is a special outrage against the hu-

mane feelings which are a central part of morality, and this is not outweighed by an extra deterrent effect; in fact the use of the death penalty is likely to increase criminal violence" (Page 195, Penguin Paperback Edition).

Tom Fogarty
Walnut Street
Auburn

It's time for Irish to trust Christ

To the editors:

As I write this, my heart is breaking. The thought of my beloved Ireland with fire in Her streets and turmoil in Her people yet again is hard to bear.

I'm speaking of the North, of course; those six beautiful counties that have been strangling for 80 years in a political paradox that defies resolution.

I think of the outrage of Catholics there, and know well enough how justified that fury is. I know how impossible it seems to let go of that anger and distrust, and how very difficult it is in the midst of injustice to feel the healing love of Christ.

I think of the Protestants there who, despite their attempts at bravado, fear they're on the brink of losing their identity; people who, because of England's

cynical policies in the past, have never felt truly Irish or truly British; and though a majority in the North, are painfully aware of their minority status on the whole of the island.

And I think of all those of both faiths who even now are trusting in God for a solution; all those who know the power of His love and the wisdom of His holy ways. Their numbers are many and their faith is shining; they are unconquerable hope.

Summer will pass, the rhetoric will cool, but the spiritual wound of Ireland will continue to bleed. The people have "called for a miracle" a thousand times over; now it's time to "take Christ at His word."

Sandra Dunn
Mattie Street, Auburn

Centering prayer answers need for solitude

To the editors:

In response to Bishop Clark's recent request on the subject, Sister Patricia Schoelles, in her July 3 column, reflected on our need and our reluctance to enter into Silence and Solitude.

The simple practice of Centering Prayer is a beautiful corridor to the kind of faithful and intimate relationship with God that grows, as Sister commented, "from the heart of life, in the midst of its mystery."

There is a Centering Prayer Group that meets regularly at 7:30 p.m. on alternate

Wednesdays at the Borromeo Prayer Center (in Greece). It is a space we create, by the grace of God, for each other to rest with God in Sacred Silence, and to support each other in this prayer life.

Another Centering Prayer Group meets on alternate Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at Guardian Angels Church.

To anyone who has felt stirred by this dialogue and drawn to the communion of Silence, we welcome you to join us at any time.

Marilyn Catherine
Brooks Avenue, Rochester

Recruit more priests from outside diocese

To the editors:

As the Diocese of Rochester begins its strategic planning process, one additional endeavor which may prove very helpful is

to actively recruit priests from outside our diocese, including from other countries. Such a recruitment effort, if successful, may ensure that no parishes have to close.

Our diocesan priests, no doubt already feeling overwhelmed and overburdened, may welcome the additional and long-awaited reinforcements. Lay involvement would continue to be needed and utilized as there is no shortage of work to be done in any of our diocesan parishes. Recruitment of outside diocesan and maximizing the role of the laity do not have to be mutually exclusive. Rather, they may both work out together in a wonderful collaboration.

Frank M. Kinsky
Lochnavar Parkway, Pittsford

Bill Alexander
Caroline Street, Clyde