

# OPINIONS

## Catholic Courier

©1997, Rochester Catholic Press Association.

1150 Buffalo Road  
P.O. Box 24379  
Rochester, NY 14624  
716/328-4340  
800/600-3628 outside Rochester  
http://www.catholiccourier.com

### President

**Bishop Matthew H. Clark**

### General Manager/Editor

**Karen M. Franz**

### Editorial Department

#### Associate Editor

**Lee Strong**

#### Copy Editor/Staff Writer

**Kathleen Schwar**

*Finger Lakes*

#### Staff Writers

**Rob Cullivan**

*Genesee Valley*

**Mike Latona**

*Southern Tier*

#### Staff Photographer

**Greg Francis**

#### Photography Intern

**Kerry Huller**

### Business Department

#### Circulation Manager

**Jeanne A. Mooney**

#### Office Manager

**Mary DiPonzio**

#### Secretary/Receptionist

**Donna Stubbings**

### Advertising Department

#### Advertising Director

**Ray Frey**

#### Account Executive

**Loretta Lowans**

### Production Department

#### Graphics Manager

**Kim Parks**

#### Graphic Artist

**Zoe Maves**

## 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.

## Poll article a disservice

### To the editors:

Once again, I read with great sadness the "bad news" reported in our diocesan newspaper, although not by our local writers, something for which I am thankful! The article to which I refer appeared in the July 14, 1997 issue and was entitled "Survey finds youth lack morals." I have one question: Do not our teens take enough negative criticism and blame from the world at large to not add to it from the church which should reach out to them in welcoming affirmation?

Much of my own ministerial work has involved working with youth and I can personally attest that our teens are people with a sense of morality and justice! They seek to make the right decisions and look for guidance from those they trust. The (Catholic News Service) article written by Carol Zimmerman refers to a survey taken from 2,000 adults. It seems the teens were not surveyed. Two-thirds of the adults described teenagers as "rude, irresponsible and wild." I disagree strongly.

Two recent events in our local church underscore my stance: the Diocesan Catholic Family Fun Day at Darien Lake held on July 11 and our own St. Joseph's Teen Institute, held here in Penfield from July 7-11. More than 50 teens from Penfield, Webster, East Rochester and Fairport came to the Teen Institute each afternoon — not a bad number for the middle of the summer! — to learn more about living their Catholic faith in our world today. I did not experience any rudeness or wildness among them. At Darien Lake, I witnessed hundreds of teens enjoying themselves and simply having a good time. No one seemed to be out of control. I can list many other times from my ministerial experience of teenagers who are good and upright, young women and men who search for answers to life's deeper questions, who love God very much and want to strengthen that love, who seek to know how to do the right thing.

It's time we applaud our teens and welcome them and not scold them for our own insecurities and behavioral problems which we too often project onto them because they are an easy target. I, for one, am thankful for the challenge our teens present to me to practice what I preach. And I will try even more diligently to affirm their presence within our church community!

**Father Lee P. Chase**  
St. Joseph Church, Penfield



## Encounters bolstered faith

### To the editors:

Sometimes my work is called a "Ministry of Money." In my role as a volunteer lay presenter for stewardship, sacrificial giving and the Thanksgiving Appeal, I have travelled to a large number of parishes in our diocese. Father Paul Cuddy (deceased) at one time event dubbed me "Mr. Money."

However, I am not writing about my work. Rather about the encounters I have had recently with several priests. They have raised my spirits more than I raised their collections.

On one particular weekend I was invited to join a number of priests at a Saturday night dinner in a downtown rectory. This was not a "good old boys" group or a "let your hair down" occasion. Rather it was a gathering of men who are not only committed but devoted to their life's work. Words cannot describe the love, zeal and passion they exhibited in being together with others in the same endeavor. It was truly as my friend Deacon Bill Maune would say a "Moment of Grace."

The other encounter involved Father Julian Fahlen, a Capuchin of Trumansburg who was assisting at a city parish on the weekend I met him. When our dis-

cussion turned to the topic of the shortage of priests his remark startled me: "Don't worry about it." Did he say this because he is an Irishman from the Bronx — has been a priest for over 50 years and is nearly 80 years old. Or was it because he had total deep faith — a complete belief based on his trust and his years of experience that everything was going to be right — and that it would be in God's time not ours.

Clearly, I realized that I had lost touch with my ability to hope! And these two brief encounters enabled me to rekindle that fire. I mean in no way to detract or deter from the work that is proceeding to prepare ourselves for the inevitable. I am often guided by a slogan on a sign in my office: "Everything cometh to him who waiteth as long as he who waiteth work like hell while he waiteth."

My brief encounter gave me a comfortable confidence — a strong feeling that not only because of but also in spite of all our worrying and energy expending efforts, we are going to grow as church. It is how it is meant to be.

**Tom McCarthy**  
North Park Drive, Rochester

## Notes English is European tongue

### To the editors:

The article written by Kathleen Schwar on the revision of the Lectionary in (the July 17) issue of the Courier raises a number of questions, since it appears that much of the justification for the material

used came from Canada. One fails to understand why observances in Canada should have preference over guidelines from Rome? Of particular interest and, very surprisingly, a Canadian sister, Donna Kelly, makes some very wild assertions claiming a "total misunderstanding by Europeans what inclusive language is all about; and the 'right' Europeans assume they have in telling us how to speak English."

I have news for Sister Kelly. English is a European language, well understood by those who take the time and trouble to learn something of its development and enrichment by people such as: Bede of Jarrow, Julian of Norwich, Thomas Mallory, Geoffrey Chaucer, John Wycliffe, William Tyndale and William Shakespeare.

One must suppose that the Holy See, with its very learned and erudite bishop, would not hesitate to avail itself of the services of English natives, who do, oddly enough, speak and understand English.

I wince every Sunday when priests intone "All honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father" and no effort has been made to correct this glaring error; and, as for "processing" instead of "proceeding" or "walking in procession" around the Church, one wonders about the competency of those so eager to alter the holy readings?

The French Canadians are very adamant about the preservation of their language, and it's time for the lovers of English to stand up and be counted.

**Joyce P. Szwagiel**  
Drummond Street, Auburn

## Headline misrepresented his view

### To the editors:

Many thanks for printing my letter that I believe must have caused some concern by your staff regarding its content. Good publications print dissenting views. Mine certainly were that. I am hopeful of your continued effort at openness. In past years such views were absent from your pages.

However, one item must be clarified. I wrote the letter regarding the priest shortage. In your giving it a title you came up with "Believes church unity only in ancient Tridentine Mass" (July 3). I never wrote nor intimated such a belief. If I did, I would be guilty of disunity. My exact words concerning the mark of Catholicity were "Without saying it doesn't exist anywhere else, I can say it still exists in the Tridentine Rite." I never mentioned the Tridentine Mass per se. Of course the Catholic Church is indefectible in the establishment of all her rites. The words of consecration in the official New Rite (Latin Typical Edition) is essentially the same in the Tridentine Rite. The guarantee of indefectibility extends only to official rites and not to the myriad of re-worded translations and individual interpretations. It does not extend to a

Clown Mass which is exactly that; a clown mass.

A valid Mass is not merely a celebration or a communal meal. It is primarily the renewal of the Sacrifice of Calvary. It must have a four-fold purpose of Adoration, Atonement, Assistance and Thanksgiving. All the official Mass rites of The Church must meet these conditions. The Tridentine Mass is but one of them. I had the occasion a few years ago of attending Mass in the Ambrosian Rite and was touched by its sacredness. Likewise I sensed the depth of two different Eastern Rite Masses and even the New Rite when it was said according to the official edition of the missal. My favorite rite of Mass remains the Tridentine for many reasons. Not the least of which is, the number of saints it produced is without equal. However, I experienced the unity of The Church in all of these rites. Please make this known to your readers.

**Antonio M. La Pietra**  
Lakeshore Boulevard, Rochester  
EDITORS' NOTE: Summarizing letter writers' complex arguments in brief headlines is an inexact art. We regret putting words in Mr. La Pietra's mouth.