

# 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  
e-mail: cathcour@frontiernet.net

### President

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

### General Manager/Editor

Karen M. Franz

### Editorial Department

#### Associate Editor

Lee Strong

#### Copy Editor/Staff Writer

Kathleen Schwab

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

Jodiann Marcello

#### Account Executives

Loretta Lowans

Nora Maxin

### Production Department

#### Graphics Manager

Kim Parks

#### Graphic Artist

Linda Jeanne Rivers

## 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.

## Picnic talk a musing, not a plot

### To the editors:

Gosh! Last summer on a lazy Saturday afternoon I sat on a porch and scribbled a column that described a conversation I had had at a picnic ("Picnickers debate what drives the world," *Catholic Courier*, Aug. 21, 1997). I thought that column was simply about whether sin (termed *greed* by my conversation partner) or grace (termed *liberation* by me) actually "rules the world." That column seemed to me to illustrate that kind of "detached summer philosophizing" that we may have time for during the warm weather months when schedules are less demanding.

But, alas, when I read Mr. Michael Valerio's letter (October 2) I discovered that even lazy summer musing isn't possible for some. His letter accused me (typed, that column is only a page and a half long!) of calling for violent revolution, providing a blueprint for the Sandinistas, incorporating the aims of Marxist Leninism, championing the "struggle of the masses," and advocating the overthrow of U.S. capitalism! If he drew all these conclusions because I used the word 'liberation,' he can consult any biblical dictionary to discover that this English word liberation is synonymous with 'salvation' in the Bible. Even Pope John Paul II uses the term positively in his encyclical "On Social Concern" (#46). Surely he can't be accused of advocating communistic uprisings!

For those convinced that our faith is too frail to withstand even summertime picnic talk, I say for heaven's sake relax, and pass the mustard, please!

Patricia Schoelles, SSJ  
St. Bernard's Institute

## Urges protest of land mines

### To the editors:

Flying in the face of world opinion and resolutions of both houses of Congress, our president, in one of his more deplorable decisions since Somalia, rejected an international ban on anti-personnel land mines. "Church leaders criticize U.S. land mine stance" (*Catholic Courier*, 9/25/97).

His reason: protection for 37,000 U.S. troops still in South Korea.

President Clinton's action, or rather inaction, stands as his rebuttal to pleas of Pope John Paul and U.S. Catholic bishops who strongly endorsed the work of more than 100 countries meeting in Oslo to formulate a treaty designed for total interdiction of these horrific weapons of death and injury to civilian populations.

In cold figures this totals 26,000 innocent people a year, as estimated by Catholic News Service, while production and sales accelerate to the profit of the three non-signers, China, the Soviet Union and the United States. All of this comes at such incredible loss of human life in foreign lands as a token of our country's Far East policy, a continuance of more than 50 years of war and occupation of Korean homeland.

Congress and the American people should stand together not only for the ratification of the Oslo land mine treaty but for a foreign policy consistent with the lesson learned in Viet Nam.

BRING THE BOYS HOME.

Frank Carver  
Cayuga Street, Trumansburg



## Pastor distorted beliefs

### To the editors:

The *Catholic Courier* performed a distinct service with its candid July 10 cover story "Fallacies distort eucharistic beliefs." It was, therefore, all the more surprising to read the 8/28/97 letter of Father Kevin P. Murphy, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Penfield, which provided yet another example of how the Church's doctrine of Transubstantiation continues to suffer acute distortion at the hand of certain pastors and catechists. In June the U. S. Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism noted the deficiencies in modern catechetical texts causing confusion and a loss of faith among Catholics.

In decrying the lack of "an in-depth treatment of the Eucharist," Fr. Murphy then proceeds to distort the Church's teaching on Transubstantiation by understanding it as "the Presence of Jesus IN the bread and wine." That particular articulation smacks of Lutheranism wherein the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ co-exist with the bread and wine.

It must be noted how normative Catholic doctrine concerning the Holy Eucharist was defined in the ecumenical Council of Trent (and reaffirmed in The Catechism of the Catholic Church).

"This has always been the belief of the

Church of God, that immediately after the consecration

the true Body and the true Blood of our Lord, together with His Soul and the divinity exist UNDER the form of bread and wine, the Body UNDER the form of bread, the Blood UNDER the form of wine...; but the same Body also

UNDER the form of wine

and the same Blood UNDER the form of bread and the concomitance whereby the parts of Christ the Lord, 'who has now risen from the dead, to die no more,' are mutually united; also the divinity on account of its admirable hypostatic union with His Body and Soul. Wherefore, it is very true that as much is contained UNDER either form as UNDER both. For Christ is whole and entire UNDER the form of bread and UNDER any part of that form; likewise the whole Christ is present UNDER the form of wine and UNDER all its parts." (13th Session, Chapter III)

The Church's doctrine of Transubstantiation insists on the complete conversion of bread and wine into the Crucified and Risen Christ's true Body and Blood. After the consecration in the Mass there is no longer bread and wine.

James Likoudis  
Montour Falls

## Speaker's tears left impact

### To the editors:

Would you be interested in one more letter on the Eucharist?

It's been such a blessing for me to attend an annual retreat at the Notre Dame Retreat House for the last 20 years. We are so fortunate to have that wonderful facility in our diocese.

Every retreat I've made at Notre Dame has been special. Perhaps, however, my first retreat was the best. The late Father Arthur "Rip" Wyatt gave a conference on the Eucharist and the Real Presence. In

describing the Real Presence, a tear or two dropped from Father Rip's eyes. His obvious faith and strong belief in the Eucharist made quite an impression on the group. At the close of the conference, Father was given a standing ovation — something I've never seen again at the retreat house.

Although I had always believed in the Real Presence, Father Rip Wyatt's conference that day made my faith even stronger.

David Dwyer, Geneseo

## Thankful for priest's, nun's stories

### To the editors:

I felt great joy in seeing the pictures and reading the words of Father Doug DellaPietra ("A day in the life ... of a young priest," *Catholic Courier*, Oct. 16, 1997). What a great gift he is to all of us. Thank you for inspiring us by his story and the story of Sister Carolyn Rosica, RSM. ("Century's 'final' vows near," *Courier*, Oct. 16) What a challenge it is, to all of us, to use wisely, the print and electronic me-

dia to inspire young men and women to respond to God's invitation. What a challenge it is, to each of us, to act and speak in ways that encourage young men and women to acknowledge this call from God and share their lively faith, with us, God's people. I thank you for this hopeful reminder that God asks each of us to be church for one another.

Pat Fender-Robinson  
Legion Circle, Greece