

## Catholic Courier

©1998, 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 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

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.

# Seek diplomatic solution with Iraq

## EDITORIAL

As the nation continues to debate whether President Bill Clinton committed adultery — and whether media outlets have gone overboard in dwelling on the allegations' every salacious detail — an even greater evil may be afoot.

By the time this issue of the *Catholic Courier* reaches mailboxes, the United States may have already launched attacks against Iraq. More likely, such attacks will not take place for a week or two. And perhaps, if sanity prevails, they can be avoided altogether.

Still, the fact that this nation is even considering such action gives us pause. Previous efforts to oust Saddam Hussein have failed. Even the overwhelming destruction wrought by the 1991 Gulf War failed to undermine him. But that conflict succeeded in bringing death and injury to hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, and a subsequent embargo that has added to the suffering.

Meanwhile, Hussein has only grown stronger.

Perhaps faulty memories and the distracting reports about the president's sex life explain polls indicating that the American people favor an attack. But Catholics should recall that the 1991 conflict and subsequent actions against Iraq met with a steady stream of objections from Catholic leaders, including the pope.

Indeed, U.S. bishops and Vatican officials expressed doubts that the Gulf conflict meets the criteria for a just war. They have called repeatedly for an end to the embargo. They have consistently pointed out that the suffering and destruction produced by U.S. actions are greatly disproportionate to the evil they were intended to curtail.

Meanwhile, the United States has had a hard time garnering international support for the proposed attack, as its allies apparently doubt that a military solution will work. Indeed, military experts say air strikes likely will be unable to destroy Iraq's chemical and biological weapon stockpiles.

As current tensions have mounted, Catholic leaders again have urged the United States to avoid armed action. During his Sunday blessing Feb. 8, in fact, Pope John Paul encouraged international leaders to "use the instruments of diplomacy and dialogue to avoid any use of weapons."

Further, Bishop Matthew H. Clark joined 54 bishops in signing a Jan. 20 letter asking President Clinton to end the embargo. In that letter, the bishops called the sanctions "a violation of moral teaching," and noted that "they violate the human rights of Iraqi people."

Granted, Hussein is far from innocent. His policies have cost countless lives and produced endless suffering. He has amassed chemical and biological weapons, and shown a willingness to use them. He has refused to cooperate fully with United Nations' requirements, helping to keep the embargo in place — and to increase the suffering and tensions.

Still, attempts at a military solution will only make the situation worse. The last seven years have shown that.

With that in mind, it's time to end this unseemly fascination with what President Clinton may or may not have done behind closed doors. Instead, it's time to focus on what he is thinking of doing to Iraq on the world stage — and to voice our objections.

## Are families doing enough for vocations?

### To the editors:

A few months ago I was blessed to have attended the Fourth Annual Marian Conference that was held in Rochester. I was so pleased to see our Bishop Matthew Clark open the conference with his special blessing and prayers; and particularly pleased to see so many priests and religious in attendance.

During the conference I was profoundly touched by a special priest, one of Our Lady's beloved sons. This elderly man was not one of the conference's charismatic speakers, in fact I had a hard time understanding him as he had a slight speech impediment. He also had a physical condition that caused him to shake involuntarily. This holy man simply heard my confession. What struck me is how many lives he must have touched and how in his waning years he still continues to serve Our Lord and Our Lady.

For the past eight or nine years I have

been attending daily Mass on a regular basis. This has led me to a number of different churches. Over and over again I am in awe of our priests who day in and day out minister to their flock in very quiet unassuming ways. After returning to work on a full time basis, I was so happy to discover a neighboring parish offered a daily 6:30 a.m. Mass. I wish I could say I make it every day to that Mass. I don't. I try, yet I know Father is there even when he is not feeling well. The sight of him leaves me humble and grateful.

At the end of October, there was a (letter to the editor) in the *Courier* concerning the lack of priests. The question it posed was, are priests and parishes doing enough to further vocations. This letter is in response to that (letter).

Yes, our priests and parishes are more than doing their part to foster vocations, but are we? Are families the domestic

church encouraging, praying and even fasting for vocations in their own families? Is the home a place of prayer? Are we teaching our children the fullness of our beautiful Catholic Faith and are we trying to live good holy Christian lives? Above all do we hold the priesthood and sisterhood in esteem and do we help our priests through our prayers and actions?

Today especially God is calling His sons and daughters to the priesthood and sisterhood but the call is simply not being heard because of all the worldly pursuits that seem to take precedence in family life.

Looking back at my elderly confessor, I have the utmost respect and love for him and for all our holy priests and sisters who give of themselves totally to serve and to give all glory to God. I'm sure heaven awaits them and hopefully those they touch.

Janice J. Armstrong  
Parnell Drive, Churchville

## Takes issue with 'positive' stories on military service

### To the editors:

I'm writing to voice my objections to the *Courier's* featuring two military-focused articles which appeared January 15. Our Diocese has committed itself to the Consistent Life Ethic and so should be teaching and preaching as strongly against military preparation as they teach and preach against abortion, because all aspects of war are analogous to all aspects of abortion — both war and abortion would sacrifice human life for other apparent objectives. Both war and abortion are employed against a perceived "enemy" — the fetus in the case of abortion — whom they have judged to be a threat to life as they planned it.

I don't think the *Courier* would do a news story about abortion in a positive light. The Church does not approve of Catholics working in the abortion industry. The

Church has never said abortion is acceptable when the mother's life is threatened by the pregnancy or when her available resources appear to be only enough for the children she already has. Because the connection isn't being made, the Church is not adequately educating on the CLE issue.

The focus in the *Courier* article on young persons was of serious concern to me. Lest people think that young people are safe in the military because the U.S. is not at war, I quote from a speech given on Oct. 29, 1997 by Admiral William Crowe, U.S. Navy Retired, "Since President Clinton took office in 1993 U.S. forces have been committed in some fashion, small or large, some 49 times, a consistently higher number than previous periods. At this moment, there are 14 active deployments of American troops abroad..."

Our children should never be told war is a noble reason to die or to kill, killing will never, for any reason, be noble and wars of each country, including America, are often, after the fact, discovered to be motivated by desire for raw power, greedy desire for access to resources and many other reasons having to do with prestige and wealth.

However, the question of whether the military is a safe or advantageous career is not the main reason for Christian opposition to warfare. Are military solutions and military participation in accord with the mind of Christ?

Vivian Rightmyer  
Leibeck Road, Churchville

EDITORS' NOTE: We disagree with Ms. Rightmyer on the Vietnam story, but agree that the story on teenage military aspirants could have been more balanced.

## Don't confuse loyal Tridentine worshipers with schismatic group

### To the editors:

Lest W.G. Beeney's letter of Jan. 22 ("Society's status suggests course of 'orthodoxy'") cause confusion among Catholics, I wish to clarify the status of the Traditional Latin Mass Community of the Rochester diocese. This community also enjoys the celebration of the Tridentine, or Traditional Latin Mass, but unlike the Winton Road community, has been established under the conditions of the Apostolic Letter *Ecclesia Dei* with the permission of Bishop Clark. Therefore, Rochester Catholics can legitimately at-

tend this 1:30 p.m. Sunday Mass at St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester.

Not only have older Catholics rediscovered the rich treasures of the Traditional Mass, but also young adults and families. They are drawn to the images of the Crucified Christ, the Trinity, saints and angels which surround the tabernacle centered on the magnificent high altar. The prayerful silence, the mystery and sacredness of the God-centered liturgy, plus kneeling at the altar rail in humble adoration to receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord appeal to

them as does the solemnity of Gregorian chant and sacred music at high Masses.

Reader Beeney need not worry about us leaving the church — on the contrary, we are preserving our heritage.

Jean M. Lloyd  
New York Street, Honeoye

EDITORS' NOTE: Some readers have confused the congregation operating on Winton Road with the Society of St. Pius X, founded by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. The local church is staffed by priests of the Society of St. Pius VI, whose members broke away from Archbishop Lefebvre's society in the 1980s.