

## 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 thoughts on fish and Fridays

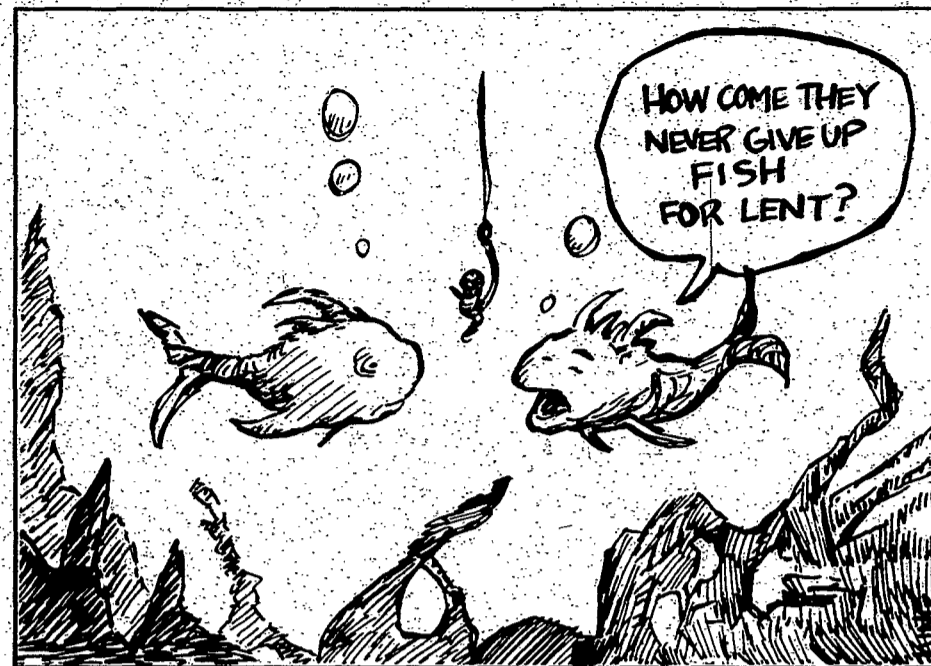
## To the editors:

I would like to respond to the recent letter by a woman named Rose, such a pretty name, concerning the discussion about the impractical idea of "meatless" Fridays, if that should be recommended by our Diocese. I find it no big deal, no real hardship, even though I like good food. Friday "meatless" does not only suggest fish as an alternate! In this day and age, everyone is aware of the thousands of recipes using: eggs, cheese, pasta, soup and a salad, or combinations of just vegetables. This lady says that she would rather eat worms than tuna. Now there's something to think about. Does Rose know that some people do eat worms? Starving young people, I am sure, would welcome even peanut butter and jelly. For myself, I cannot find fault with making a "small" sacrifice one day a week, while some people have no food at all, and while some must eat from garbage cans. Even with resentment, sacrifice is good for the soul.

In conclusion, this lady said she would rather read a few pages of the Bible. In reply, maybe she could read more than a few pages, so that her family could benefit from her good example.

I think it would be a friendly thing to do if all of us would send Rose some of our delicious "meatless" recipes. How about it everyone? We wish her well!

Mary E. Fritsch  
Dewey Avenue  
Rochester



## Sacrifice once a week not enough

## To the editors:

About meatless Fridays, how about people who never eat meat or eat meat only once or twice a week for economy sake? I believe that people can make a worthy sacrifice by exercising control over the quantity at each meal or not eating between meals. Anyway, weekly sacrifice is insufficient. Our sacrifices, prayers and all

work should be offered to God daily.

Also, we should pray especially for the youth of America that they will practice abstinence and learn to respect life from the womb to whenever our Creator wills to separate soul from body.

Joseph E. Judge  
Crow Hill Drive  
Perinton



## Stop-gap solution is OK for him

## To the editors:

After reading Father Richard McBrien's column on foreign priests (March 12), there were only two of his thoughts I could agree with. Celibacy is impacting the number of vocations — always has — and foreign priests would be a stop-gap solution.

The single most significant reason for the decline in this country's vocations has been society's social/moral decline. Unfortunately, many Catholics have been following the same path. Our church has too often not challenged these wayward brethren.

There are many like Father McBrien who have their own agenda, and are secretly delighting in our current crisis.

Bringing in foreign priests would only delay or derail their progressive plans — married clergy and priestesses.

Contrary to Father McBrien's assertion, this country is becoming a mission country. If our sacramental needs are to be met, we will need foreign missionary priests to administer them. I feel fortunate that there are priests able and willing to help us in our time of need.

Being part of the universal church, our beliefs and truths transcend cultures. Priests, regardless of culture, are an integral part of our Roman Catholic heritage.

Stephen J. Fisher  
Honeoye Falls, via e-mail

## Don't judge Mass-goers by their appearance

## To the editors:

Recently I attended a parish function where another person made a remark I found offensive. The comment was about how people dress for church and that we all ought to be dressed up and not wear jeans.

My parents taught me many valuable things, but three that pertain to church and this letter are: 1) Present your best to God, 2) God is more concerned about what is in our hearts than what is on the outside, 3) "If you want to avoid judgment, stop passing judgment" (Matthew 7:1).

A short time ago a situation developed where I could no longer wear my "Sunday best": my next best outfit happens to be

jeans. So I am faced with the question, "Do I stay home to avoid judgment by the self-appointed clothing police or do I attend Mass in my jeans?" I suppose the more important question would be, "What would Jesus advise me to do?"

Marilyn Smith  
County Road 41, Farmington

## Community encompasses more than we perceive

## To the editors:

I would like to share with the *Courier's* readers a sensation that overwhelmed me as I entered church last Sunday.

I saw all my fellow parishioners in their pews, but I also felt the closeness of previous parishioners who now rest in Christ.

In addition, I sensed the church filled with angels offering their praises to God together with the people and saints.

I have always joined my prayers at Sunday Mass to the prayers of fellow Catholics throughout the world who are also participating in the Sunday liturgy, and I have always felt great kinship with missionaries offering masses in remote areas, but never before have I felt my own church so full of spiritual beings sharing a oneness with all the mortals present.

At funerals we hear that though people have died they are still with us, so when we go to Mass let us join with all the "angels and saints" in a conscious way and truly acknowledge their presence at the Lord's Supper with us.

Our community of believers encompasses more than meets the eye. God's family, our spiritual family, surrounds us and supports us on our journey to the Father.

Bernadine Moles  
County Road 28, Shortsville

Send your letters by e-mail — using the form at  
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