

## 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.

## Two final views on intercommunion

### Uphold truth while seeking reconciliation

#### To the editors:

Have we allowed a transformation to take place that truly makes us a people of the Resurrection? As Catholics, we have the Eucharist — a thanksgiving sharing in the power of the death and resurrection of our Lord.

The real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist has been expressed for centuries in the worship and sacramental participation in Jesus' death and resurrection, who in the appearance of bread and wine, gives us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Vatican II taught that the Real Presence is, in addition to the transubstantiated bread and wine, also present in the Presider, the Word of God, and the people gathered — a wonderful revelation to celebrate.

We have elevated the people — you and me — as bearing the presence of Jesus. The Scriptures have been illuminated to cause us to burn with desire to know our Lord. The priest acts as Jesus did to consecrate the bread and wine through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Have we in the process to elevate these "newer" elements of the Real Presence diminished the importance of the Body and Blood of Christ? What was preeminent is now equivalent with the others. But let us make no mistake that the Body and Blood remains crucial to our transformation as a people of God. This is no simple element of faith. It is challenging to comprehend fully and will always remain a great mystery.

Our youngest son has just made his First Communion — inviting our entire family to share in his and our own preparation. As I reflected on my own childhood in this challenge of faith, what was especially helpful to my faith building was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. To ponder Jesus' presence and to worship in awe led to a gradual understanding of this mystery. Is it plausible that adoration can reverse the trend as indicated in recent surveys that many Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence in the Consecrated bread and wine?

The Eucharist with Consecration is central to our Catholic faith — substituting communion services is not the lasting solution. Since it is in the breaking of the bread that the two disciples on the road to Emmaus recognized Jesus, is it not possible that this central element of our faith as experienced in the Consecration can draw more men to the priesthood?

Since Jesus spoke about Himself as real food and drink — many thought He was mad and would not follow Him — is this what causes separation of our non-Catholic brothers and sisters? The Church needs to adhere to its teachings and avoid intercommunion — it is more than mere hospitality. A priest can state at Communion: "If you share our faith and believe that this is the Body and Blood of Jesus, you may receive." This is not an unloving response — just a reminder of the sacredness present. We have started a long road of healing with a renewed ecumenism but we must be diligent to uphold the truth.

**Michael Mazzochetti**  
 Pinewood Knoll, Rochester



## We leap too quickly to judge

#### To the editors:

Father McBrien's article on the controversial Communion was extremely interesting to me, and I reread it three times. That of the Irish president, coming as it did in more or less hostile territory, was bound to be controversial. Nobody can see into the human heart, but I believe her action was aimed at building sorely needed good will between the two Irelands, and should be commended rather than condemned. That of the American president, for whom I have very little personal respect, may have been motivated by a desire to show good will to the Bishop and his people.

The point which I feel needs to be

made in each of these cases is this: Our Blessed Savior, I believe, instituted the Sacrament for all sinners, and for the remission of sins. Is not the effectiveness of the Sacrament limited only by the disposition of the person who receives it? Can any of us surely judge that disposition?

We leap to judgment so very quickly. We should, of course, pray for our friends and family. We ought, also, to pray for those with whom we disagree. And we should pray especially for our pastors and bishops, who have to shepherd so stiff-necked a people.

**Richard J. Erbelding**  
 Bay Village Drive  
 Rochester

## CDA supports school aid idea

#### To the editors:

The members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, of the State of New York, held their 46th biennial convention April 15-19, 1998, and approved the following resolution unanimously, which was submitted by the Clyde Court Gleason #924, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Clyde, New York:

"Whereas, the Word of God, Quality of Education, Goodness, Knowledge, and Disciple are most in need today, toward the education and welfare of our young people, it is most imperative that the Catholic Daughters of the Americas peti-

tion the State and Federal legislators to allow vouchers (monetary aid), toward tuition, which will allow parents to have a choice of sending their children to a private or parochial school of their own choice. The future of our parochial schools is dependent upon this financial assistance."

There should be no question of church and state conflict, as this aid could be used toward non-religious subjects. All interested parents should contact their legislators immediately.

**Jane A. Compitello**  
 East Genesee Street, Clyde

## We are created by God's miracles, perform miracles through Trinity

#### To the editors:

The Catholic Courier article of April 30, '98, "Miracles" is, to state an understatement, very relevant to us. God's particular plan, i.e. Jeremiah 1:5, is a text in which we find God's particular plan for a specific person, Jeremiah. Scripture scholars tell us we may take it that God says to each of us the same words spoken to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you and before you were born I consecrated you. I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Since we came into being by God, it is

His action that gives us life and sustains our life. All the people on earth are His creation — to us it may be the greatest of miracles. We can truly see miracles by seeing each other and also when we look in a mirror we do see a mirror of a miracle.

We all are creations of The Miracle Maker and made in the image and likeness of The Miracle Maker. We can and do perform miracles by our connection to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit — SO BE IT! Alleluia.

**Eugene Fuerst**  
 Simpson Road, Rochester

## Thanks columnist for suggesting reevaluation of warfare

#### To the editors:

Bravo to Patricia Schoelles, SSJ, for recommending that Catholics resolve to study pacifism. I read the column after looking at a book that was a reflection of the morality of the Persian Gulf War, *But Was It Just?* This book conveyed to me the

thought that modern technological warfare is so terrible that humankind would be better off forgetting about fighting wars. The book that Sister Schoelles recommends, *The Catholic Peace Tradition* by Ron Musto, no doubt tells us that the Church is beginning to see that its

founder, Jesus, is the Prince of Peace. Thanks, Sister Schoelles, for encouraging your readers to update their thinking on modern warfare.

**Tom Fogarty**  
 Walnut Street  
 Auburn