

# OPINIONS

## 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.

# Thank God for miracles in Ireland

## To the editors:

The passage of the Good Friday Agreement in Ireland isn't a happy ending; it's the hopeful beginning to an evolving just peace. There are sufficient safeguards and structures in it to protect Catholics in the north, but paper promises are worthless without implementation.

So now the real work begins, trying to bring cross-border ministries to reality, the devolution of British troops and restructuring of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and many other issues needing the attention of a yet-to-be-elected Assembly.

And all of it dependent upon the will and grace of God. Because the truth of it is this blessed beginning could unravel in a hundred different ways, despite the most skillful political maneuverings. Which brings me to my reason for writing.

During the past several years, as secret talks between the Irish Republican Army and Britain were whispered about, as the various declarations and frameworks were proposed and the endless obstacles and impediments overcome, during this entire roller-coaster ride, prayers in their millions were going up to God daily from all over the world. And He listened. He poured out strength when chaos threatened. He poured out wisdom and understanding to break ancient stone walls. He unfolded events and circumstances to bring about the healing He'd ordained long years before the Troubles even began. Yet who in the entire political arena has even once given Him a word of thanksgiving or praise?

Perhaps it's asking too much for those who pride themselves on their ability to grasp hard realities and bottom lines, but surely the miracles along the way must have given them pause? Surely a brief glance backward to where things were 10 years ago must make them shake their collective heads? Would a simple "Thank you, Lord" demean them or destroy their credibility?

As I said, this promising first step could fall apart quickly in a hundred ways. So the prayers will continue to rise, and the little miracles will continue to come on the wings of grace. But it surely would warm the heart to hear some of those movers and shakers give a tip of the hat to God, who even now is making a way where there seemed to be no way.

**Sandra Dunn  
Mattie Street  
Auburn**

## America article just publication of one viewpoint

## To the editors:

Regarding the letter of Joseph J. Murray in Opinions, your issue of May 14: The *America* article to which Mr. Murray's letter refers, I presume, is that in the *America* of February 28, entitled "A View of Religious Vocations," by Father Albert Dilanni, SM.

I believe that it is quite clear that the editors of *America* have simply printed one individual's view of a vast and complex problem in the Church. One cannot legitimately and seriously commend, as Mr. Murray does, "the editors of *America* ... for bravely admitting" anything of the sort that Mr. Murray asserts in his letter. *America*, I feel, was seriously and courteously giving Father Dilanni an opportunity to state his views. Neither was *America* printing necessarily as its own views, any of the steady volume of views on the subject which have appeared in its Letters to the Editor since the printing of Father Dilanni's views.

**Francis D. Champion  
Pittsford-Victor Road  
Pittsford**



## Daily communicant grateful

## To the editors:

For more than 30 years since I began working for a living, I have enjoyed the opportunity and the blessing of daily Eucharist. I am full of gratitude for this wonderful Gift. It has been a time of prayer, of hearing the Word of God, of being instructed in faith, of encountering Christ. Often I have heard exactly what I needed, sometimes being guided away from serious sin.

I have stood, sat, and knelt during the Eucharistic Prayer; received Communion under one form and both forms; sung and not sung; gone to square, fan-shaped, and cruciform churches. It doesn't matter. There has always been that same Awesome Presence, that same tender Love.

I have great fondness for the parishes and the people who have provided Masses at times when I could attend: Our Lady of Victory, St. Joseph's and St. Mary's

downtown; Precious Blood near General Motors; Assumption in Fairport; St. Thomas More near Linden Oaks; and St. Charles Borromeo and Holy Name of Jesus near my home.

I also have great affection for the priests who have put these Masses into their schedules, sometimes way before dawn, sometimes at great inconvenience. During this coming month, as new assignments are being decided for many of our priests, I would recommend a special time of prayer and thanksgiving for their services. They make possible and bring to us the greatest gift available in this life. And they endure all kinds of flack, ridicule, and the most subtle and vicious of temptations.

My hat is off to you; my prayers go with you. Thanks a million, Men of God!

**John F. Toth  
Stonehill Drive, Rochester**

## Glad for Sinatra's best comeback

## To the editors:

It was heartening to read of Frank Sinatra's gift to DeSales High School in 1981 (*Catholic Courier*, May 21, 1998: "School official recalls Sinatra's generous act").

With no publicity, Mr. Sinatra returned to the Catholic Church in 1979. He'd received an annulment from his first marriage (1939) to Nancy Barbato. His next two marriage attempts were outside the Church. The annulment made it possible to have his marriage to Barbara Marx validated at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New

York City.

Generous to many worthy causes over the years, Mr. Sinatra was especially good to many Catholic appeals. Before his recent death, he urged that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Catholic Charities and a center for abused children founded by the Sinatras in 1986.

He made many comebacks in his long and successful career. His last 20 years were a special kind of comeback.

**Father Robert J. Kanka  
St. Ann's Church, Hornell**

## Pleased by schoolchildren at Mass

## To the editors:

Today I was in the company of Angels — Archangels to be exact. The classes at Archangel School came to St. Stanislaus for the noon Latin Mass on Ascension Thursday.

What a delight to see these children, so, so reverent worshipping Our Lord.

It was a bonus for me and I'm sure others to know there is still a Catholic school today where our children can be taught in the traditional way. Three cheers Angels, I was between tears of joy and Alleluias.

**Jeanne Fallon  
Sunrise Crescent, Rochester**

## We're fortunate to have such a vigorous pope

## To the editors:

I am writing concerning a cartoon featuring Pope John Paul II which referred to him as some version of an Energizer Bunny.

In my opinion, although he is obviously physically frail, his spiritual and intel-

lectual health are in-tune with the times. If it is God's will, I pray that he will lead us into the 21st century. We are fortunate to have such a Pope.

**Margaret J. Donovan  
West Pulteney Street, Corning**