

OPINIONS

Pray for Irish as they move toward peace

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.

To the editors:

Sandra Dunn's letter of June 4 ("Thank God for miracles in Ireland") prompted me to share my Ireland experience. I returned from Dublin May 30, after being at the Marianella Centre for Study and Renewal for three months. The Redemptorist priests are very active, both in Dublin and Belfast, in working toward peace in Northern Ireland. Father Gerry Reynolds, CSSR, is to be commended for his outstanding leadership and coordination of our group during our three days in Belfast.

We were able to meet with members of the Cornerstone Community. These are men and women, Catholic and Protestant, who are working together to help the community realize the need to work together for peace. One of their ministries is to visit, a Catholic and Protestant together, the families of victims to give comfort and, by their example, the need for reconciliation. They also are working with children and teens to help them see the need to respect one another.

We listened to a Catholic and a Protestant prisoner, who were released early on murder charges. They sat side by side and told us how they had to put all the anger of the past aside and work for peace.

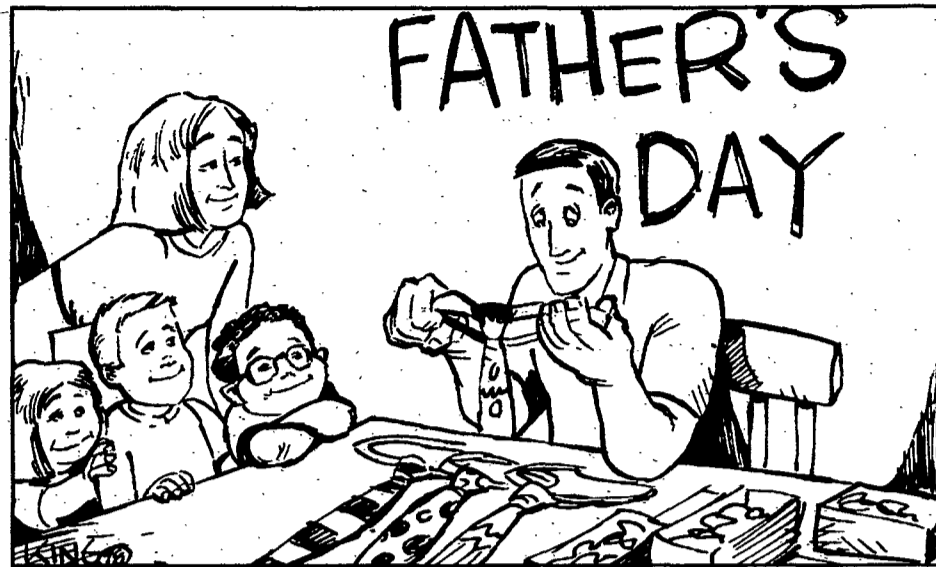
We were also assigned two by two to go to a home of either a Catholic or Protestant to listen to what it is like to actually live in the midst of the Troubles. The Catholic family I visited told us how one evening, while they were praying the Rosary, there was a loud noise and when they went to check there was a man and his dog laying in their front hall. A bomb had gone off and they were blown into their home.

When we attended an ecumenical prayer service and Mass at the Clonard Church, we sang the hymn written by Bob Gillman, "Bind us together Lord, bind us together, with cords that cannot be broken; bind us together Lord, bind us together Lord, bind us together with love."

Sandra mentioned the 71 percent yes vote for the Belfast Treaty is only a beginning. We were told that it would be 15-20 years before true Shalom comes to them. These are steps for peace for the next generation.

In the Republic, as well as in the North, the people would pray aloud with the Cebibrant, at Mass, "Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day..." Let us pray this prayer with them during these days of discernment as they prepare to vote for their Assembly on June 25.

**Sister Edna Slyck, RSM
Demarest Parkway, Elmira**



Glad bishop, paper printed story

To the editors:

I write to congratulate the *Catholic Courier* for publishing on page three in its June 11 issue the story about Father Charles Mulligan's decision to leave the canonical priesthood. Such an article would not have been printed in every diocesan newspaper.

The article described a deep struggle for Father in arriving at his decision. He had made a 30-day retreat and had wrestled with his love of God, the love of his parishioners, and yet the empty void in his life (...the absence of a consistent person with whom I can share my life" ... "my personal need for companionship and love..."). I appreciate your reporter's coverage and the highlights of Father Mulligan's 34 years as a celibate priest.

I salute Bishop Clark for his personal comments and recognition of Father's

years of leadership and service. Many bishops would not have made any such statements or allow publication of them in their diocesan newspapers, fearing that Catholics would be scandalized. How can anyone be scandalized about a person being human and struggling over leaving the priesthood he still loves and the people he would like to continue to serve?

Many people will miss Father Mulligan or remember him fondly. Some may ask: How can we afford the loss of another priest? Aware that Catholic teaching states: once a priest, always a priest ("Thou art a priest forever"), I will offer this wish: Hopefully the day will come when the people of this diocese will be able to invite Father Charles back to serve them as a married priest.

**William J. Irwin
West Gray Street, Elmira**

Why do Catholics have different opinions?

To the editors:

For the truth questions need to be asked. Diversity has been promoted by many. What is the objective? Who is going to decide the opinions closest to the truth? What is the truth?

A friend of mine — a student of the Bible and a former Catholic — recently asked me why so many Catholics have so many different opinions about their religion.

If some Catholics do not wish to support the Pope 100 percent, what is their alternative? Did Jesus ask his Apostles to vote on what Church Doctrine was to consist of? Does "Thy will be done" in Our Lord's

Prayer allow for exceptions?

Jesus gave us the truth: "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:13-19)

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:20)

**Joseph E. Judge
Crow Hill Drive, Fairport**

Courier wins 14 national, state awards

NEW ORLEANS — The *Catholic Courier* earned 10 awards — including two firsts and an honorable mention for general excellence — at the 1998 Catholic Press Association Convention held here June 3-5.

The awards come on top of four awards the newspaper earned at the New York Press Association Convention held April 3-4 in Albany.

The awards were for submissions published in 1997.

At the CPA gathering, the *Courier* received honorable mention for general excellence among diocesan newspapers with circulations above 40,000. Placing first, second and third, respectively, were the newspapers of the Archdioceses of New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

The *Courier* also earned first-place awards for Best Front Page and Best Editorial Page. The judges praised the "great use of illustrations and photography, visual strength and composition" of the front pages, and said of the editorial pages, "This paper proves you can be eye-catching and get your point across in less space."

Staff Photographer Greg Francis won

second place for Best Photo Story for his "A day in the life ... of a young priest." The judges praised his "nice images of the priest (Father Douglas DellaPietra) on his way to church and celebrating Mass." The same work earned first-place honors from the NYPA.

In addition, Francis earned a third place from the NYPA for Best Feature Photo for his photograph of a Mother of Sorrows student in Greece releasing a butterfly in a science project.

The entire staff received a second-place award from the CPA for Best Seasonal Issue for the 1997 Christmas edition. "This Christmas issue does a nice job of taking what could have been a wide-ranging collection of features about people helping people, and weaving them together with the 'Angels,'" the judges wrote.

Staff Writer Rob Cullivan received two thirds for Best Investigative Reporting for his stories "Abortion's Toll on Men," and "Handcuffed Harvesters." The judges said his abortion story was an "interesting and different perspective on (a) topic not commonly considered," and that his migrant worker story was an "easy to read and fol-

low" treatment of an often overlooked subject.

Cullivan also earned an honorable mention from the CPA for "Best News Report on a National Event" for his story on the U.S. Supreme Court a case to permit public school employees to provide services in private schools. In addition, he had received an honorable mention from the NYPA for Writer of the Year.

Associate Editor Lee Strong earned a third-place for Best Editorial on a National Issue for "Do the Disney boycott one better." He also earned an honorable mention for Best Personality Profile for Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen series.

Rounding out the staff awards was an honorable mention from the NYPA for Best Use of Color.

In addition to the staffs' awards, syndicated columnist Eileen Marx, whose column "Family Matters" runs monthly in the *Courier*, received a CPA second place for Best Regular Column: Family Life; and Father Richard McBrien, whose column, "Essays in Theology," appears weekly in the *Courier*, won second place in the reference books category for *Lives of the Popes*.