

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

Business Department

Circulation Manager

Donna Stubbings

Office Manager

Mary DiPonzo

Secretary/Receptionist

Arlene S. Gall

Advertising Department

Advertising Director

Jodiann Marcello

Account Executives

Otto Bruno

Melissa Paris

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.

Wishes all would see parish fruit

To the editors:

When Jesus called his first disciples he invited them to "come and see." For those who are wondering about what is happening at Corpus Christi, let them come and see for themselves. Jesus said, "By their fruits you shall know them. A good tree does not bear bad fruit nor a bad tree good fruit." What are the fruits at Corpus Christi? They feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick, comfort the dying, visit the imprisoned and tithe 12 percent of their income for the poor of the world.

At Corpus Christi people are accepted just the way they are, in their brokenness. Some come to serve the poor only to discover they are the poor. We are all poor, we are all broken, we are all sinners. But we are also blessed, beloved daughters and sons of God who loves us beyond our imagination. Like the Eucharist, once we are broken we can be given to the whole community.

Jesus' pastoral Eucharistic prayer was "that all might be one, as you Father in me, and I in you, that all might be one in us." Jesus' prayer is Corpus Christi's dream. That is why at Corpus Christi we try to tear down the walls that separate us: rich vs. poor, Catholic vs. Protestant, male vs. female, Anglo vs. Hispanic, black vs. white, gay vs. straight. Broken as we are we are called to be one in Christ.

In the parable of the wheat and the chaff, Jesus warned his followers not to separate the wheat from the chaff too early lest they throw away the wheat. Let the Lord of the harvest separate them at harvest time. What some think to be chaff may turn out to be wonderful wheat in the presence of a loving community centered in Christ.

Corpus Christi is a community that lives on the edge but that is where Jesus lived his whole life. Sometimes he stretched over the edge to include people such as the leper, the Samaritan woman at the well and Mary, the sister of Martha, when he taught her as she reclined at his feet. In the eyes of some Jesus stretched too far breaking the religious laws of his day. In the eyes of some Corpus Christi is stretching too far. I don't think so. I believe that the Holy Spirit is at work here but we will not see the full fruits of the Spirit if we stifle the work of the Spirit.

Before Vatican II John XXIII warned the bishops not to stifle the work of the Spirit. Let us heed his warning. The light at Corpus Christi should not be put out. It should be put on a lamp stand for all to see. I wish Cardinal Ratzinger would "come and see" our community. He would discover in Father Jim a beautiful instrument of God's work. In fact his gifts should be used by the whole body of Christ.

Emmett Neary
Bakerdale Road, Rochester

Put away childish remedies and move on

To the editors:

With respect to what is occurring at Corpus Christi: First, people of the same sex cannot procreate. Therefore, they cannot marry.

Second, unless a person has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior via Baptism, has made his or her First Holy Communion, has had his or her sins forgiven via the Sacrament of Penance, and understands the concepts of the Blessed Trinity allowing the Trinity to work in his or her life, only then can the person receive Holy Communion.

Third, Jesus Christ spent time on Earth



Spirit of Inquisition lives on in effort to discredit others

To the editors:

I am writing simply to express my profound disappointment in both the Vatican officials who listen to them and in fellow Catholics who feel the need to turn in other Catholics who may not believe in the "party-line" as they do. And in those who attempt to discredit others with untruth, or words taken out of context distorting the original meaning of the speaker.

I especially regret that one such member of (Catholics United for the Faith) saw fit to attempt to discredit Bishop Matthew H. Clark by writing a letter to the editor of our local newspaper, *The Press & Sun Bulletin*, in which he stated that Bishop Clark approved of homosexual marriages/liasons. The letter was published in the *Press & Sun Bulletin* just prior to Bishop Clark's visit to our parish on June 15 for the CELEBRATION OF UNITY, representing the bonding of six faith communities in a lasting covenant to work together here in the Southern Tier, Tioga County area of the Tioga-Tompkins Region of the diocese.

If this kind of sabotage is supposed to be defending the faith, then I pray God spare us all from becoming victims of these "Gestapo-like tactics!" I am terribly saddened that there are Catholics who believe they are serving God by reporting every supposed "error" or "lack of compliance" to supposed Catholic teaching to

Cardinal Ratzinger and Pope John Paul II. Our Catholic faith has always been broad enough and at the same time universal enough to embrace people at all stages and levels of faith and conversion.

The "spirit of inquisition" is apparently alive and well today as it manifests through those who need to "tattle" to the "top dogs" so to speak. On the other hand, Vatican authorities also seem to be out-of-touch with the spiritual and mental growth of the laity and clergy throughout the world, and the internal teaching by the Holy Spirit that has inspired that growth. If these conditions persist, then a schism is sure to follow.

"They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father or Me. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them." John 16:2-4.

Jesus was not referring to pagans, but to church-going people, and the religious/church authorities of that time. It was and is always easier to deal with law than with love. Could it be that is why Jesus told us to love one another as He loves each one of us, even now?

Patti Federowicz
Clover Street, Apalachin

Put God's will ahead of your own

To the editors:

When I first read of Father Callan's dismissal from Corpus Christi, I was very sympathetic to him and the parishioners. I am not a parishioner of Corpus Christi but he was very well known in the Diocese and I knew that parish was famous for its liturgies. He certainly was doing

something right to have people from all over Rochester and its surrounding areas attend his services.

Sad to say, I don't feel that way about him anymore. I was not happy to hear about the protesting in front of the Pastoral Center but I was appalled at his remarks this past week. He referred to his next parish as "St. Purgatory in the Boonies" and that was uncalled for. That remark is hurtful to the people at his next parish, wherever that may be.

He should be a role model and accept his assignment with dignity because he made a vow to obey the Bishop. We all pray for acceptance of God's will, but he is showing disrespect to his leader by encouraging these protests and making remarks that are "way out of line."

I pray for him and his parishioners because I know this is a time of agony for them but they also need to pray for acceptance of "God's will be done," not theirs.

M. Cathy Helmes
Dakota Street, Rochester

Gina Downer
Finucane Road
Rochester