

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 DiPonzio

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.

Deceased loved ones near God

To the editors:

Recently, I was reading a religious booklet on our deceased loved ones. I was surprised to read that our loved ones in the dimension of heaven are nearer to us in death than they were in life. Heaven is where God is. God is everywhere! Such being the case I believe the above remarks to be true...that heaven is not in a restricted area and is wherever God is. If I am wrong I stand to be corrected by some learned theologian more versed in this subject than I.

I believe most of us have suffered from being separated from many of our everloving dear ones ... mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, et al. A theologian has estimated that over 75% are or will be enjoying the eternal happiness and peace in heaven with our Father and his heavenly kingdom of angels and saints and our dear loved ones. I was afraid it might be the other way around. Thanks and praise to our Father for His infinite blessings!

If you will recall in the Baltimore Catechism there is a question: Why did God make you? Answer: "God made me to serve Him, love Him in this world and to be happy with Him in the next." If each one of us will to know, accept and carry out God's will, 75% are on our way to that place prepared for you and me by our Father even before you, I or the world was



created. I hope and pray we all make and join our loved ones for an eternity of love and happiness!

Last October 10th my dear wife Mary (always prayed her rosary) went to meet and live with our maker. Like many of our deceased loved ones she was created and lived a life filled with love for everyone. I never heard her speak ill of anyone nor did we ever have an argument in our happy 59 years of wedded bliss and love. No due credit to me. By association some of her loving goodness must have rubbed off on to me. I believe thru her nearness to me in the heavenly dimension, it seems to still do so. How lucky for me and many others who enjoy the same privilege. I believe I have made my point which is

summed up in the most powerful word in the world ... "love." Why? God is love!

To enjoy an eternity with our heavenly loved ones and God I believe if we practice the following virtues, the gates of heaven will fly wide open for us as soon as we draw our last breath.

All in the name of Jesus! Always thanks and praise to our Father for His graces and blessings to and for each one of us. Know, accept, and carry out His will and obey His commandments. If we do this, heaven is guaranteed for you and me!

Pray for our deceased this November and every day of the year!

Francis J. Mastropietro
Clark Street, Auburn

No excuse for a moral wrong that harms

To the editors:

Father McBrien's furtherance of a moral relativism, veiled under the cover of the "virtue of justice" is, at best, provocative ("We Cannot Judge Another's Guilt Before God," Oct. 15). But I respectfully disagree with his assertions that behavior, particularly the bad behavior of the President as leader of our nation, ought not be judged as it requires "access to another's conscience and psyche." This premise is not only misleading, it is also destructive to our moral fabric.

Surely we must render unto God what is God's and that includes the Lord's judgment of the "sin." However, there is no excusing a moral wrong whose consequence clearly harms the people of God and divides a nation and undermines our institutions of church, school and family. If a

man follows his compulsions and commits adultery and is consequently divorced from his wife, is it more sinful that he fails to pay child support to his "powerless" children? If a child feels compelled to steal from a candy store, is it more sinful that she fails to share her ill-gotten booty with her friends?

Though our President may purport to champion the cause of our nation's "poor and powerless," is he thus given a pass to act upon his compulsions without moral accountability? Moreover, this "devil-made-me-do-it" excuse is harmful to the integrity of a nation founded under God and which nation's very inception was premised upon a moral certitude that a nation's leader ought act with responsibility and accountability to the governed.

The compulsion is the temptation. It is

the battle we fight when we choose to act or not to act, to relinquish or to stand firm, to be weak or to be strong, which defines our individual and our nation's moral character. When we struggle against the temptations of the flesh and adhere to a moral code, then we give rise to our Spirit. It is the perpetual struggle to override our self-interest which exacts our kinship with God. And it is the outcome of that very struggle which yields the justice.

There is no end which justifies the means here. And there is no justifiable "sin" against God's people.

God will always judge the sin. But make no mistake: the act of the sin and the responsibility for its consequences belong to Caesar, whom we are all entitled to judge.

Geralyn D. Ferrari
Royale Drive, Fairport

Another 'ordinary' woman satisfied with her role

To the editors:

Congratulations! Another issue full of articles about women — a new saint, the staff at St. Ann's Home, Sr. Janet Korn of Catholic Charities, the bishops' document on women's advancement, raising voices for equality, moms at Creative WKids, and letters to the editor. One, in particular, caught my attention and evoked (for a change) a positive response from me. I, too, am an "ordinary" woman — wife, mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, niece, etc. My profession is volunteering. There are many, many of us. I wish more would come forward and be counted, but that's not what we're about. We like our role — even if it is often behind the scenes. We're needed; we perform invaluable services in many areas for many people. And like Margaret Cutt notes (*Catholic Courier*, Sept. 15, "Ordinary" woman likes church role, "I am able to find completeness in my role in the Church without needing to be a priest." She goes on to point out that she "can evangelize, console, pray, worship and teach." Many of us do these things in our homes, families and parishes every

day — and we're satisfied with that. How many parishes depend on women performing these functions on a regular basis? How many other community groups and institutions rely on the generosity of women who live a life of service — with or without a title? We are, in Margaret Cutt's well-chosen words, "the nurturers and the perpetrators of our faith."

The direction our diocese is taking with Synod Goal 3 is most upsetting to me and, honestly, I'm confused that we would be expected to support these efforts — monetarily or otherwise. Pushing inclusive language and sponsoring workshops and seminars to feed those seeking ordination to the priesthood seemed bad enough — and has certainly contributed to the problems at Corpus Christi and probably several other places as well. But,

when I read Gloria Ulterino's remark to the impressionable teens about telling "the leaders of the church that women have an equal place in the church" ("*Raising voices for equality*," *Catholic Courier*, Oct. 15) I can understand how Mary Ramerman's place on the altar at Corpus Christi had already been taken by two young teenage girls (*Democrat and Chronicle*, Oct. 16). Why is a department at the diocese office subsidized to brainwash and promote what other women are being fired for doing, viz. acting like ordained priests?

Perhaps more "ordinary" women need to make their sentiments heard — to their pastors and to our bishop.

Happy to be "ordinary."

Annette DeCarolis
Greece

Thanks for speaking for 'majority' of women

To the editors:

I am writing to compliment Margaret A. Cutt, R.N., on her letter in your Oct. 15 issue.

Thank you for expressing clearly what I believe the majority of Catholic women believe. Thank you.

Veronica M. Condon, Victor