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.

Catholic schools a beacon for youths

To the editors:

Catholic Schools throughout our Diocese are celebrating their existence this week (Feb. 7-12). Sporting events, service projects, social gatherings and advertisements will highlight the special contributions that Catholic Schools have made to young people and society. This week, we are reminded of the significant role that Catholic Schools play in Christ's call to evangelize. Our celebrations will renew this vision.

Catholic Schools are required to meet the same academic standards as public schools. Their uniqueness lies not in their academics, but in their holistic approach to the education process. They seek to touch that part of the human spirit that calls us all to true greatness. Catholic Schools attempt to form the heart as well as the mind of a student. They do this by awakening the conscious to a standard of morality that is counter cultural. The consciousness of society has become dulled to the culture of death that has permeated our world today. The Catholic School resurrects a system of values that has all but vanished in today's me-centered atmosphere. These values are punctuated in every classroom where a crucifix hangs and class begins with

Catholic schools work on the premise of the law of permeation. If a child is to learn about the culture of its family, the child must live within the family. Likewise, a child learns about the faith - its values and ideals - by living within the



framework of a Christian home and a Catholic School as reinforcement.

Every morning I am met, at the doors of DeSales High School, where I teach religion, with a sign that keeps me from becoming complacent to the value of a Catholic education. The sign reads, "Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen, but ever-present Teacher within every classroom. He is the model for our faculty and the inspiration for our students.'

Catholic Schools have sent forth many

young men and women into society, not only equipped to meet the challenges of their technical world; but also armed with the seeds of faith. Our graduates carry within them the seeds of hope for society - a people committed to love of God and service to humankind - the ultimate purpose of all education.

Support Catholic Schools! They are a beacon in the darkness for today's youth! Lena Shipley

East Avenue

Annual March for Life is unique experience



Marty Lueders/CNS

Tens of thousands of people from around the country gathered in Washington to protest abortion at the annual March for Life Jan. 22.

Pray for those viewed as 'sloppy'

To the editors:

In response to the letter of Jan. 21, "'Sloppiness' increasing in today's Mass' I wonder, dear lady, why do you go to Mass? Is it to look for all the negatives? Your heart should be so focused on God that you wouldn't even see the 'wrongs' in your eyes – that people are doing.

'Vermin" sounds like Hitler terminology. Jesus loves and died for these people that you criticize as much as He does you. Where is God's love in your heart? Why not pray for these people? Is not God merciful unto you-a sinner? Let Him change you and may you allow God's love. to flow from your heart.

I pray that God will richly bless you.

Mary Post Guinta Lima Road Geneseo

In order to know what really takes place in Washington every year on Jan. 22, you have to: be at the 7:30 a.m. High Mass celebrated by Cardinal Bernard Law at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception after an-all-night bus trip; make your way carefully through the sleeping bags and their occupants that line the floor of the Basilica Crypt; join the crowds being squeezed into the Metro cars heading for Capitol Hill; contact your representatives to voice your opinion about abortion; be encouraged by the messages heard at the rally; and participate with tens of thousands of marchers in the March for Life which ends at the steps of the Supreme Court in a peaceful and prayerful man-

There is no way to describe the feeling of being there!! It is then that you have the opportunity to share in the profound spiritual experience, to realize the importance of citizen participation in government, to witness the crowds from the top of the hill - as far as you can see, to observe the large percentage of young people present who travel with their schools from the eastern and central states of our country, to wonder if there actually is a priest "shortage," and to be proud – and grateful – to be blessed with membership in the Catholic Church.

Mary Lou Reifsnyder Mountain Rise Fairport

Jesus did not instruct us to follow the easiest course

Jesus saves us because He loves us.

I invite all of you to climb into the Time Machine with me and travel back to the time when Jesus walked upon this earth. Then we can observe firsthand what He said and we can think profoundly about what Jesus did not say.

JESUS DID NOT SAY:

What I am saying to you will overwhelm you. Do not concern yourself or burden yourself with my thoughts. Future generations will develop the ideas I have sug-

If you are enjoying a healthy successful life and possess many material things, I do not want you to change anything.

Don't be concerned about what might happen to others as a result of you exercising your rights.

I suggest to my audiences that they take a vote and then follow what the majority

If you are accused of sin, broadcast the sins of others so your sin will not seem to be as bad or to excuse yourself entirely.

I am asking you, my followers, to vote

your choice for the Leader of My Church. Now this writer is asking the readers to compare the themes of what Jesus did not say with what Jesus did say. Consider that the theme detailed above as to what Jesus did not say is about not caring for us. When we study and meditate on what our Savior did actually say, we learn about the infinite love that Jesus has for each one of us.

Joseph E. Judge Crow Hill Drive, Fairport