

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.

Many good changes in parish life happening

To the editors:

I have read all the news over the past months both pros and cons in regard to the Church, who is at fault and who is not. I would like to see all the press go away, as that does not resolve anything for anyone.

I want everyone to know what changes have taken place at Corpus Christi in regard to the Eucharist, the Sanctuary, Sacristy and the Church in general.

People who attended Mass and were not active have come forward from the fringes of the Church to be active, participative members. These people are doing many wonderful things, such as the one who has attended since 1941 is a Sacristan, Lector and Eucharistic Ministry and comes to daily Mass to clean, first, while talking to herself about how "This is God's House and should be the cleanest house." She brings her love of the Liturgy and God with her dust rags. The one who helps with repairs. The people who cleaned the Church for Advent. The Sacristan who makes Purificators and sews colored Crosses on them to go with the Liturgical Season. For Lent making the Altar and Tabernacle clothes and a Stole to match. The friends of Father Dan's who help with the music and the Choir members who stayed. Also the small Christian communities that have come from the "ashes."

Joan Workmaster who trained in excess of 30 of us on the proper way to do the ministry that we volunteered for.

Father Dan McMullin and Sister Sue Hoffman who have taught us the proper way for the Liturgy to be said, not the "watered down" one which we accepted as proper. Also to be Blessed with a priest who when he sings the Consecration is awesome. The Healing Mass that people are still talking about the beauty of it. We look back and know what should have been.

Bishop Clark had to see this as a place of promise, that is why he refused to close the doors.

Anyone who thinks we won't succeed is very wrong. We are on "Holy Ground" and the best is yet to come.

Ann Konish
Corpus Christi sacristan
Waldorf Avenue
Rochester

It's high time to hear from bishop

To the editors:

I have never written to the *Courier* — or any other newspaper for that matter — before, but I feel compelled to do so now. With many people I admire and respect apparently "excommunicating themselves" even as I write this, it is puzzling to me that the only words I hear from Bishop Clark himself on this whole Corpus Christi matter are from statements attributable to the Bishop's office usually delivered by someone else.

I have a great deal of respect for Bishop Clark, but I am mystified why he has not addressed this situation directly more often. Surely there are not that many issues more pressing in the diocese. Most weeks I have picked up the *Courier* hoping



Subject 'prophecy' to tests

To the editors:

It was appalling to read (in "Corpus Christi Blues," Feb. 4) Father Hart's comments implying that the defiant priests and parishioners of Corpus Christi are "prophets" of today's Church. Are they prophets as Father Hart implies or are they heretics, apostates and schismatics?

Since the time of Moses there has been a simple two pronged test to determine false prophecy from the true Word of the Lord. First, does the revelation come to pass? Second, does the revelation introduce a new doctrine which departs from the ancient tradition of the Church? St. Paul defined the second part of the test as the Catholic rule of orthodoxy in matters of faith and morals. The apostolic tradition of the early Church has been successfully defended by this rule down through the ages by among others, St. Irenaeus, defending against the early heresies in the Church, by St. Francis de Sales in convicting the Calvinists of heresy during the false revelations of the Protestant revolt, and by all the Synods and Coun-

cils of the Church.

Certainly, Corpus Christi priests and parishioners have introduced new revelations of faith, morals and other novelties. It would be wise in assessing this situation in our local church to first consider the "prophetic test" — study the apostolic tradition of the Church, what we have been taught, what has been entrusted to us to hand down to others. In this light, it is clear that they are in direct contradiction to the apostolic tradition of the Church as established in the Old Testament, brought to fulfillment in the New, preached by the Fathers of the Church and handed down through the ages by the Magisterium of the Church.

Furthermore, it is distressing to see such confusion being fostered by diocesan officials like Father Hart. This type of confusion certainly has contributed to the apostasy that has unfolded at Corpus Christi parish.

John Maurer
Washington Avenue
Rochester

People of diocese need clarity on situation at Corpus Christi

To the editors:

After seeing several weeks of letters from people speaking to the problems at Corpus Christi Parish, Jim Callan, and now Corpus Christi Faith Community, it appears that there is a need for the Bishop's Office to provide clear guidance to the Diocese on the nature of the break away church being called Corpus Christi Faith Community. I see Jim Nicholson's letter this week referring to "Father"

Callan and Mary Ramerman "saying" Mass. I have listened to several people saying that "they" distribute consecrated hosts at these services.

All of this lends to the continued scandal and confusion that exists in the Catholic Community and is shown in the letters to this paper as well as the local newspaper. At a minimum, if "masses" are in fact being offered at Corpus Christi Faith Community, they are illicit. They may very well be invalid. I suspect the situation might be worse.

What would be far more problematic is if the Bishop fails to speak out and provide guidance to the Diocese, and continue to do so until it is clearly understood what the official status of Corpus Christi Faith Community and the leadership is with regard to the Roman Catholic rite.

By the way, I believe that the continued allocation of space in the *Catholic Courier* to Father Callan, other than welcoming him back to the Catholic Church, and to the Corpus Christi Faith Community activities adds to the confusion within our Diocese by perhaps giving them a bit of legitimacy.

There is a tendency to avoid dealing with issues in matters of our faith in this Diocese until they get well out of control. Christian charity for we Catholics is more than avoidance of conflict and being nice, it is being truthful, honest, and speaking out to issues that affect the souls and salvation of all of the Catholic Community.

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Send your opinions via e-mail to cathcour@frontiernet.net.
Please include a mailing address and phone number, too!