

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.

Accepting of ridicule to uphold the 'truth'

To the editors:

In the Nov. 18 column "Thank God for Vatican II," Father McBrien states "Only Catholics at least in their mid-teens when the council opened in 1962 can appreciate the extent to which it enriched the Catholic Church." Since I was 22 then I would reply, thank God it did not enrich it any more or they would have already closed more churches. Now that Catholics artificially contracept, abort, are homosexually active, attend church services, divorce and remarry in comparable numbers as our non-Catholic neighbors, I can see no reason for praising the Council. Vocations come from God, and He has refused to grant vocations in any large proportion except in one segment of His body; that which embraces pre-Vatican II Tradition despite continued suppression from the hierarchy. God is telling us something in His unique way. As St. Paul warned, many of us have "itching ears" and refuse to listen.

Mid-way through Father McBrien's column lies the key. Father writes that the Council brought us to see the error of the pre-Vatican II axiom "Error has no rights." In the Catholic context, error is construed as believing what is untrue. The dictionary gives "Sin" as another definition of the word. Sin and error as we sing in "O Holy Night" go hand in hand. Axioms and proofs—remember geometry—also go hand in hand. Webster's says axioms are self-evident and need no proof because their truth is obvious. In other words the Council shows us the sin of believing that which is true. St. Thomas Aquinas already proved that this is an error known as the principle of contradiction—nothing can be true and false at the same time. For this reason we continue to believe, no matter what Father McBrien might claim; that error—lies, misunderstandings or heresies—are not accorded rights alongside truth.

Apparently, those who propose that error has rights in the Catholic Church are the ones promoting the Lutheran Accord and pantheistic ecumenism. Vatican II was defined by its originator Pope John XXIII as pastoral and non-dogmatic. He said it did not define any new infallible dogma. His mandate was exceeded. There are many today who believe the teaching of Vatican II is not only infallible, but that it abolishes all previous Catholic doctrine, regardless of the Council limitations.

Jesus said "The truth shall make you free." When He says the same of error, only then will I accept error. To do otherwise would be a betrayal of the sevenfold heavenly gifts I received from the hands of Bishop Kearney the moment of my Confirmation. I am sure that would incur my damnation. Rather I would choose mockery and ridicule for the faith that was handed down to me, because it's only for a while.

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Appeals to diocesan family to aid Corpus Christi parish

To the editors:

I would like to issue a Christmas appeal to the Rochester "Body of Christ" to help our own this season. As I hear the bells in front of stores ringing for the Salvation Army and see all the appeals in paper for money to help in this "giving" season, I cannot help but think of our most needful member this season—the parish of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ).

I have a little saying on my computer that says "The Ten Commandments are not negotiable." Neither are the canons and rules of our religion. We pray for the people that left Corpus Christi but we also need to help those who were left behind and followed their hearts and consciences.

Think of what a Christmas that parish would have if all of us Catholics sent \$2 or \$5 or more if you could to Father there. I know that we all have had hard times and think what it meant to you to have one

friend or relative actually help not only with prayers but with action.

How happy the Baby Jesus will feel if we "present" this Christmas to one of His bleeding and wounded lambs. Let the symbol Y2K mean for us this year Yes to *Kairos*. *Kairos* is the Greek philosophy term for a period of crisis within a temporal experience at which the person concerned is summoned to historical decision. In Scripture, it is the time of salvation which God has chosen and decreed.

This is the only true crisis I can remember in our faith here in Rochester. The Holy Father has called this a time of "Hope"—let's give our help, support and hope to our "Corpus Christi" in this time of salvation chosen by God.

Thank you for caring and sharing.

Pat Petrie
Seneca Avenue
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Likens SOA to war in Vietnam

To the editors:

John W. Honeck's, "Letters show no outrage over deaths," (*Catholic Courier*, Dec. 2) ends with "How can we love if we allow our government to kill in our name?"

Love of course does not ignore the deaths incurred by communist supplied forces in Central America who have killed native Indians and government officials. SOA critics do just that.

In fact they remind me of those anti-war protesters who forced a U.S. surrender in Vietnam. Later these same protesters were

silent while the communists killed thousands of Vietnamese boat people and millions of Cambodians.

Christ never asked us to abandon those whose lives were in danger. Unfortunately the lack of wisdom can lead to a detour that would "strain the gnat and swallow the camel."

Events at the School of Americas have indicated to me that the protesters are at that detour.

Robert W. Bart
Ithaca

Courier staff 'miscued' in devoting article to story about diocesan CYO game limits

To the editors:

Please tell your readers that you miscued in printing the story you did on page 3 of your Nov. 18 issue ("Diocese asks parish CYO teams to cut games"). Why waste one third of a page to air an internal dispute over the number of games CYO teams will be permitted to schedule?

There are many, many themes of greater diocesan importance, stories of what is happening in parish planning,

liturgical developments, local efforts in the fields of social ministry and social justice, what is going on in our higher institutions of learning—St. Bernard's on the Road, for example—all of which merit and need publication. Where are these articles?

Dennis—Bishop Hickey—please come back to guide our *Courier*!!!

Grace B. Carnes
Eagle Ridge Circle, Rochester

Impressive Vatican ceremony was uplifting

To the editors:

(On Thursday, Dec. 2.) Pope John Paul II presided over an impressive ceremony in St. Peter's Square! It was among religious leaders from many parts of the world—each person had a very tall lighted candle. It was to improve understanding among the religions of the world. It was so very well planned and very uplifting in spirit. Likely anyone, no matter what their own religious faith, would have been proud to take part in it.

The Pope did read a great message to everyone who was there taking part. Each had his or her own religious clothing on. It was wonderful to see and hear. Such colors and great facial expressions besides the many varieties of clothing!

Their postures were very impressive also; as well as their wonderful facial expressions.

Mary Rita Crowe
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