

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.

Jesus most influential individual in history

To the editors:

With the New Millennium upon us, there has been much discussion about determining history's greatest and most influential individuals. While many considerations come to mind, none can compare to the One whose birthday we just observed.

Who else but Jesus Christ, born 2000 years ago in an animal stable, could have caused a national shopping spree that recently crowded our malls and highways?

What other individual could bring so many businesses and industries to a sudden stop, in observance of their birthday? Who else's birthday would cause millions to travel home to celebrate with family and loved ones?

No one has impacted the world for centuries so much as Jesus. Countless schools, churches hospitals, social institutions and charitable institutions have been founded upon His principles of loving one's neighbor and The Good Samaritan.

His Gospel has given meaning and purpose to millions of lives, and offers the promise of eternal happiness to those who follow him.

Who can compare to Jesus' amazing credentials? He was prophesied hundreds of years before His birth, claimed to be divine, healed the sick, walked on water, forgave sin, brought the dead back to life and rose from the dead Himself. He also physically ascended into Heaven, promises to return again, will someday judge us, answers prayers, etc.

In fact, the apostle John excitingly exclaimed: "The entire world could not contain the books needed to write about all that Jesus has done" (John 21:25).

Two thousand years ago, Our Savior left the eternity of His kingdom and came into our time, causing the very time we use today to be measured from His visit.

No one else has the unique distinction of actually having time and history measured from before and after their existence. His story regulates history! He is the focal point of history, from which civilization sets their clocks and dates their calendars.

In the midst of all the Millennium celebrations, it is unfortunate that people have forgotten the special anniversary of the greatest and most influential individual in history, and the very reason for the year 2000 A.D.

Michael McBride
Fillingham Drive
Rochester



Reuters/CNS

Fireworks explode over the dome of St. Peter's Basilica at the start of the third millennium Jan. 1.

Father Faraone exercised unique ministry for flock

To the editors:

On Dec. 19 we lost a brother and heaven gained a son. His official title was Pastor; his vocation was Priest, but Father David Faraone practiced a unique kind of ministry that was difficult to describe. He seemed to have thought of himself as a shepherd who was supposed to "lie down with the sheep" — invite them to his home, cook for them, care for them, gather in strays. Imagine that! Wonder where he ever got that idea? He also thought that a parish was a family. He insisted that we be with him, regardless of our attempt to put him on some sort of spiritual pedestal. He expected everyone in the family to take some responsibility and care for each other. He even expected us

to take care of him — to comfort, to hug, to befriend, as he did for us. He shared his talents and acknowledged his shortcomings in a real and personal relationship that defied the boundaries of "detachment" and he left us to deal with a grief that was much more painful and personal than we expected.

Father Dave was an excellent pastor, and an extraordinary priest. But, he asked and gave much more. We are left to mourn the loss of a beloved brother. He would have it no other way. So be it. Rest in peace, David. Alleluia.

Ann Wilkin
Church of the Epiphany
Mission of St. Rose
Sodus/Sodus Point

Inconsistency mars activism

To the editors:

The National Jewish/Catholic Consultation's call for an end to the death penalty (*Catholic Courier*, Dec. 9, 1999) would be more credible if there was consistency on the life issues.

My understanding is that the Jewish community, for the most part, is very supportive of legal abortion. This does not lend credibility for their opposition to the death penalty. To me, it is inconsistent

and hypocritical to be against the state imposing the death penalty for heinous crimes, and yet support a woman imposing the death penalty on her innocent unborn child.

When I hear that the National Jewish/Catholic Consultation also calls for an end to abortion, then I will take their opposition to the death penalty seriously.

Raymond N. Buonemani
Holcroft Road, Rochester

Did he miss protests of bombings?

To the editors:

Regarding the article "Group condemns death penalty": The article suggests that the National Jewish/Catholic Consultation is calling for an end to the death penalty, primarily based on the traditional teachings of the "sanctity of life."

In the past nine years the U.S. govern-

ment has bombed Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia — all sovereign countries, two of which were bombed extensively.

Did I miss the Jewish/Catholic voices speaking for the "sanctity of life"?

Dave Rosso
Rochester

Crisis at Corpus Christi could be opportunity for transformation

To the editors:

I would like to respond to Pat Petrie's appeal (*Catholic Courier*, Dec. 16) for the diocesan family to aid Corpus Christi Parish. I presume, at least hope the reference is to aid the outreach ministries, not the parish itself. Corpus Christi grew into a great parish community because of the core belief that going to Communion lead to being in communion, especially with the poor and marginalized. The community had a fundamental belief that they needed to exist with and for the poor or not exist at all.

Petrie writes that "Kairos is a Greek philosophy term for a period of crisis within a temporal experience at which the person concerned is summoned to historical de-

cision." Paul Tillich notes that Kairos is "an outstanding moment in the temporal process, a moment in which the eternal breaks into the temporal, shaking and transforming it and creating a crisis in the depth of human experience." It is a crisis that must be responded to.

In Greek thought "chronos" refers to chronological time, "Kairos" is much richer. A "Kairos moment" is an opportunity, a precious moment, a sacred gift that we cannot afford to waste for it may not come again.

The events at Corpus Christi/Spiritus Christi in the past year could indeed be a kairos moment, a precious gift in the Tillich sense where the divine is breaking through, shaking and transforming us, call-

ing us to a response.

Also this very special jubilee year, a time of forgiveness provides both sides an opportunity to be touched by a kairos moment of grace for the good of the outreach ministries. I know the Spiritus Christi community is committed to the survival of the ministries. If Corpus Christi really wants the ministries to survive creative minds could work together for this purpose. Why not share the use of the building on Main Street for the good of the ministries? Why not recognize that this community though broken is really one community? Why not admit the primacy of conscience, "the aboriginal vicar of Christ"?

Emmett Neary
Bakerdale Road, Rochester