

# 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.

## Appreciates vocation gift of 'fathers'

To the editors:

Last weekend I was privileged to attend the 25th Anniversary Mass of our parish priest's ordination to the priesthood and the festivities that followed. As I sat in the pew I was in awe of the joy and praise that flowed from the celebration of the Eucharist. I felt I was at a wedding ceremony, and so I was. It was a love fest between God and man, and man and God. The liturgy, worship, and music gave witness to the joy of the priesthood and the thanksgiving of this servant of God for being given the call.

Throughout the weekend social events were organized so that everyone in the parish could participate. These included an ice cream social, receptions following each Mass and a special dinner party held at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center that was well attended. In order to be invited Father simply asked who would like to receive an invitation.

I wanted to attend to show my appreciation for not only Father but for all of our holy priests. That night there were quite a few "men in black" on hand including our bishop the Most Rev. Matthew Clark. Their closeness and camaraderie were most apparent. I felt unworthy to be included in this part of the celebration; however, throughout the evening I was pleased to be given the opportunity. You see I got a deeper insight into who Father is through the various speakers who toasted him and who roasted him.

The best speaker was Father himself. He planned these celebrations not for his own recognition nor for the people who were invited but to give praise, glory and honor to God for calling him to this marriage. Father's closing words to each one assembled were to encourage and foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Today especially there is so much discussion on the "restrictiveness and sacrifice" of the life of the priest that we fail to expound on the joy, love and conviction that our priests hold in their hearts for their vocation. The priesthood is not an individual's right or desire but rather a gift from God. We are all called to live a priestly life to bring the good news to all through our words and actions no matter what our state in life.

Christ's ministry is available to all. The priesthood and religious life are special gifts reserved for those chosen. I write this letter for all our present and future priests in thanksgiving to them for responding to God's Holy Call. How awesome that truly is.

Janice J. Armstrong  
Parnell Drive, Churchville

## Six-year terms preferred by pope

To the editors:

Your recent issue (June 8) featured an informative article "Coming to terms with term policy." It was particularly helpful in explaining the ramifications the appointment of pastors to specific terms has for not only the pastor but for the community he serves as well.

Some clarifications concerning the length of the term appointment used in the Diocese of Rochester may be helpful. As your article mentioned, in accordance with Canon 522 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, bishops may name a pastor to a term if a decree of the conference of bishops has permitted this. The National Conference of Catholic Bishops did in fact, in 1984, vote to give diocesan bishops the option of assigning terms, with the specific length of the tenure and renewability left to the determination of the



## Area will miss retiring pastor

To the editors:

For the past 17 years we have been the most fortunate parish in the diocese. We have been able to have Father William J. Cosgrove as our parish priest.

Father Cosgrove is a very unique person. He never thinks of himself — only the people he is serving. I doubt if he has ever had a real vacation since he has been at St. Dominic — just going to his trailer in Pulteney with Charlie, his dog, for a few days and always on call to return for any emergency.

He loves his flock, but knows how to always be a priest, first and foremost, and never waivers from that role.

Father is the most holy priest I have ever known — so dedicated to God and to what God expects of him as a parish priest. Every day he has been in a hospital, nursing home or a sick person's home and has shown such compassion for these residents. I know this firsthand because

he visits my own mother in a nursing home and she always asks, "Is Father Cosgrove coming to see me today?" She is 96 and she cried and cried when Father said he was retiring.

I could have just written this letter personally to Father Cosgrove — and because he is so humble I'm sure he wishes I had, but I wanted the diocese to know what a wonderful priest we have had at St. Dominic and how we will all miss his gentle guidance. He may say he is retiring, but he will never stop performing his role as a priest.

Everyone in the villages of Manchester and Shortsville — and many surrounding communities also — regardless of his faith, will miss you, Father, and we thank you for all you have done to inspire our faith and sense of community.

Alice Doody Appleton  
St. Dominic Parish  
Shortsville

## Departing music director grateful for 'eclectic' liturgical programs

To the editors:

Why is it that people are always saying, "How come we never hear such and such a hymn or piece of music anymore?" Old Catholic favorite hymns including, "Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All," "To Jesus' Heart All Burning," "O Lord, I Am Not Worthy" are just a few good devotional hymns written before "feel good" music entered the Catholic music scene. Gregorian chant and choral Masses and Motets of Palestrina, Victoria, Byrd, and other well-known Renaissance composers have stood the test of time and still can be heard in the finest music programs of churches and cathedrals.

However, this is becoming a rarity, it seems, as the "feel good" music dominates the market. There unfortunately

seems to be a movement of sorts trying to abolish this good Catholic music. We cannot forget our history. How can we move forward if we do not learn to appreciate our past?

It is wonderful to have an eclectic music program in a parish in which parishioners and visitors can choose a "style" of music most suited for them, whether it be contemporary or traditional. Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish has such an eclectic musical program. The Folk Group provides contemporary music at every other 9:30 a.m. Sunday liturgy during the regular season. The Cathedral Choir provides traditional music at every 11:30 a.m. liturgy during the regular season and Holy Days, and has a long, rich history of providing only the best music. A team of volunteer cantors tirelessly give of their time and talents to aid in congregational singing. The Sacred Heart School Mass Choir and Children's Handbell Choir provide music every first Friday of the month during the school year. It is also wonderful that the Diocese of Rochester has a Latin Tridentine Mass in which the Latin Polyphonic Choir also provides only the finest music.

As I leave Rochester and move on to assume a position as Organist/Music Director in the Archdiocese of New York, I would like to express my thanks and love to the Cantors of Sacred Heart, the Sacred Heart School Mass Choir and Children's Handbell Choir, Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir and Latin Polyphonic Choir.

Jennifer Pascual

EDITORS' NOTE: Ms. Pascual was organist and choirmaster at Sacred Heart Cathedral; director of music for the Latin Polyphonic Choir, Latin Mass Community; and former organist at Holy Cross Church.

Father Kevin E. McKenna  
Chancellor, Diocese of Rochester