

OPINIONS

Catholic Courier

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1150 Buffalo Road
P.O. Box 24379
Rochester, NY 14624
716/328-4340
800/600-3628 outside Rochester
http://www.catholiccourier.com
e-mail: cathcour@frontiernet.net

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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.



Get African seminarians

To the editors:

Concerning Jerry Filteau's article June 22 "Survey provides a look at the country's new priests," I could not help reminiscing about an encounter I had earlier this year with a priest from Africa. Father M. — as I will refer to him — and I had a conversation of the abundance of candidates for the priesthood waiting in the wings to be allowed to move forward to enter the seminary. Father M. said in his country there are hundreds if not thousands who are being called, but due to the lack of funds these future men of the cloth wait patiently. He mentioned Bishop Moynihan who has taken six or so of these men into the Syracuse Diocese to be schooled and become priests with the permission of the candidates' bishop. Father M. said the Rochester Bishop can do the same if he chooses to. The article also stated that 2% of all up and coming

priests are from Africa. While Mr. Filteau stopped short of accusing the Catholic Church of exclusion, the article insinuated it by mere comparison to other ethnic backgrounds. Let us pray that Bishop Clark will have the courage to do as his colleague to the east has done and sponsor some of these young men. On speaking of the Good Samaritan the late Bishop Sheen said, "The Samaritan had the courage to act immediately on what his heart felt upon seeing the injured man, while the other passersby probably went and reported it to the proper authorities out of duty and not out of affection and responsibility." God is providing the answer to the priest shortage in the countries of Africa and Eastern Europe. May we respond like the Good Samaritan.

Michael Valerio
Malin Lane
Penfield

We must live Christian lives

To the editors:

The public has stated that things have changed in this world. Yes, it's the people, not the world. Some feel that popularity and glory are reaching the top. What about our Christian duties, bringing up your children to know the Lord. Living a life of Christ's teachings brings so much happiness. Instruct your families to treat all classes of people with love and respect.

Oftentimes people neglect the religious customs and their children suffer. The Lord who governs our lives and knows and sees all that we do is forgotten. When a tragedy arrives, then they ask for help. So, let us be reminded the Lord is with us always. Stop to think of all the wonderful things we have been given. Let's thank the Lord and be grateful for these blessings. As a rule, opportunities will not come our way always, unless we work for it. Life is

not easy and things will not always be handed to us for success. Faith is another thing to base our life on. Each day we automatically have a square meal where others are starving. Many of us are extravagant and forget about the poor and needy. Give generously if you are blessed with sufficient needs. Love thy neighbors and don't be selfish and greedy. Try not to ruin people's reputations, because we all have a skeleton in our closet. Before we are ready the Lord will choose us to join his kingdom. There will be loads of questions that we must answer. This time we must tell the truth because he sees through us. Jesus will be fair with us and place us in our proper place for eternity. Praise the Lord!

Anna Groat Burley
Burley Road
Clyde

Urge U.S. to ease burden of debt

To the editors:

It was encouraging to learn about the \$1.1 million pledged by parishes and individuals of our diocese for the Jubilee Debt Forgiveness Fund. This is a great work of mercy towards those parishes which for various reasons might not be able to repay old debts.

There is, however, a much broader issue — one of global proportions — whereby the U.S. and other countries would provide a similar debt relief to the world's poorest countries, those that have unpayable debts.

After debt payments, these nations have no resources to deal with drought, floods or natural disasters. People must watch their children die because the government has no money to invest in health care. Young people cannot afford an ed-

ucation nor hope to rise out of poverty.

I would urge everyone to write to their U.S. Senators (Charles Schumer and Daniel Patrick Moynihan) as well as their Representatives (Louise Slaughter, John LaFalce and Amory Houghton) asking them to make very effort to secure funding for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Trust Fund so that the burden of international debt will be lifted from the world's poorest nations.

This is an opportunity for our country to take a position of moral leadership throughout the world. I would urge that we make every effort to promote the right of every human being to have a decent life.

Bruce J. Zaepfel
Edgeware Road
Rochester

Jesus is both God and man

To the editors:

"Wonders about 'honoring'" published in the *Catholic Courier* May 25 by Peter Dzwonkoski is an example of misinterpreting the meaning of the Bible. Jesus did not speak in any disrespectful manner to his parents.

Mary and Joseph, after realizing that Jesus was not with either of them, became worried about their human son not considering Jesus, Son of God. As a human mother, Mary said to him, "Son, why hast thou done so to us? Behold, in sorrow thy father and I have been seeking thee." To which Jesus said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" While Mary and Joseph did not understand Jesus' answer completely, they surely knew that he was not talking about carpenter's work. They couldn't know what was meant by his Father's business.

When one reads Luke 2:48-52 and Matthew 12:48-50, one should remember that Jesus is both God and man. His answers must be taken as when he speaks as the Son of God or the son of man. Jesus lived sinless.

John H. Nolan
Brooks Avenue, Rochester

Parish penalty is undeserved

To the editors:

Bishop Matthew Clark went to court and on TV voiced his opinion against the death penalty for a vicious, unremorseful killer, Jose Julian Santiago.

But it was Bishop Matthew Clark who issued the death penalty, a death sentence, against a small church, St. Francis of Assisi, 77 Whitney St., because it was a "people" poor — but not money poor, \$275,000 in a diocesan bank — parish!

The doors will close June 25, 2000, shutting off the lifeline to heaven for many older parishioners who may not go to bigger more distant churches and another death sentence!

A death sentence is a death sentence and it's worse if there isn't any crime committed.

Phyllis Burruto
LeManz Drive, Rochester

Take responsibility for political forces

To the editors:

In speaking of the character of Congress, James Garfield, 20th President of the United States said,

"Now more than ever before the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave and pure, it is because people demand these qualities to represent them in the national legislature. If the next centennial does not find us a great nation... it will be because those who represent the enterprises, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid controlling the political forces."

Mary Rita Crowe
Main Street East, Rochester