

OPINIONS

One candidate less anti-life than other

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.

To the editors:

The editors' note at the end of the letter, "Abortion: Key issue in 2000," raises great concern and is in need of clarification. The editors' note seems to imply that both candidates are the same in regard to accepting or rejecting the life ethic defined by the Catholic Church. What is not mentioned is that there is more than one issue concerning the sanctity of life and it is important to see where the candidates' position are on each one. For example, one candidate is 100 percent against pro-life issues while another may be 25 percent against.

Vice President Gore
Abortion: Promised to continue to guarantee abortion on demand.

Partial Birth Abortion: Promises to veto any ban on partial birth abortion.

Capital Punishment: Believes in capital punishment.

Choice of Vice Presidential candidate Lieberman: pro-abortion, has voted against the ban of partial birth abortion the three times it was voted on in the Senate, followed by President Clinton's veto each time.

Capital Punishment: Believes in capital punishment.

I believe it is safe to say the Gore-Lieberman ticket is 100 percent anti-life according to the standards the Church defines as "Being Pro-Life."

Gov. Bush

Abortion: Is opposed to abortion except when it involves the life of the mother. Has a record in Texas according to the National Right to Life News of implementing regulations to discourage

abortion.

Partial Birth Abortion: Promises when Congress sends him a bill to ban partial birth abortion, he will sign it into law.

Capital Punishment: Believes in capital punishment.

Choice of Vice Presidential candidate Cheney: Against abortion under any circumstance. Would work to put an end to partial birth abortion. Believes in capital punishment.

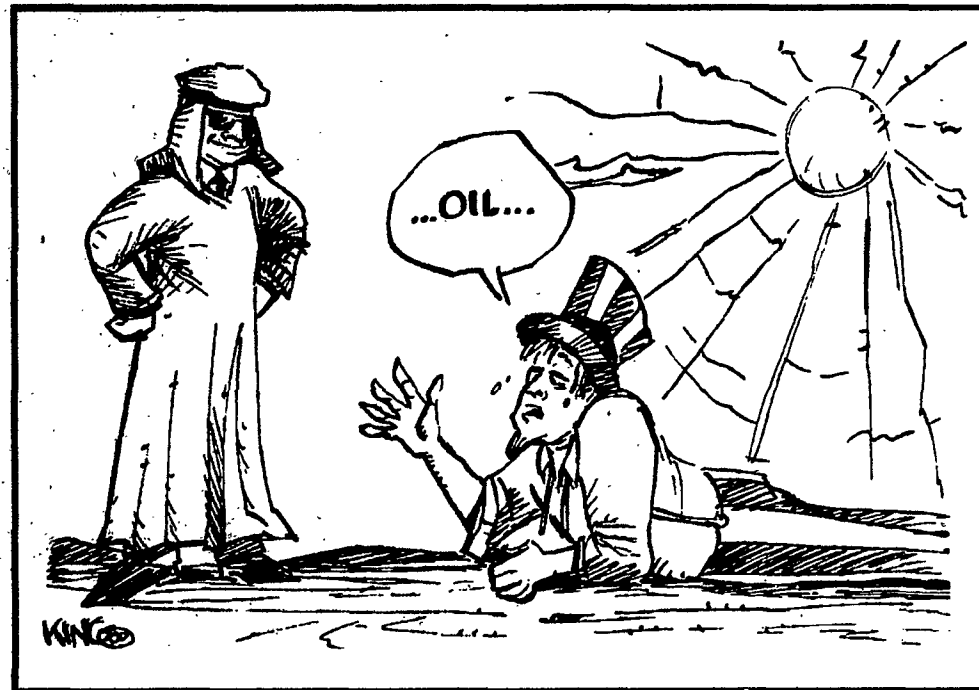
I believe it is safe to say the Bush/Cheney ticket, although not 100 percent, is far closer to the standards of the Catholic Church in being "Pro-Life."

One more point on this issue. Thirty-

nine million unborn and partially born infants have been killed since 1973 — that is a million and a half each year. Their deaths are performed in such a barbaric manner. They do not have due process of law — the time of their death is determined and it is done. In partial birth abortion, their little legs are pulled out and they are kicking, the arms feel the first touch of life, then the doctor thrusts a needle behind his/her skull and it's over.

How could anyone vote for such atrocities or veto a bill to ban it?

Rita B. Sartori
West Clinton Street
Elmira



Recent *Courier* items adding stress to life

To the editors:

I have been a faithful reader of the *Catholic Courier*, but lately reading this newspaper just adds stress to my life. Let's look at page 3 of the August 24 issue. The *Courier* apparently condones the fact that John Honeck chose to break the law. Now that he has been punished as all lawbreakers should be, your readers are asked to contribute to a fund to help him or his family?? This is ludicrous to say the least! In the 1960's the Barringer (sic) brothers, 2 Catholic priests, thought that they too were above the law. Just because one doesn't agree with our laws does not give them the right to break them. Ironically the story following this one deals with an ex-teacher who was charged with endangering the welfare of a child. Does this mean a fund should also be started for Mr. Capo? No, of course not, but this shows how ridiculous starting a fund for a protester is. *The law is the law!* Because one does not believe in abortion, does not give one the right to kill an abortionist.

Turn to page 11 and read Mark Scibilia-Carver's letter attacking the U.S. soldiers' role in the Korean War. How dare you attack the brave men who fought one of the harshest wars in our history! Korea was unbearably hot in the summer and sub-zero in the winter. If the Koreans or Chinese didn't get you, the elements would. Many U.S. soldiers lost limbs to frostbite. Mr. Carver cites the No Gun Ri massacre as the "true U.S. colors — absolute good for freedom, self determination and life itself." Have you ever suffered the heartaches of war; ever lived in your own filth for weeks at a time; ever been hungry, thirsty or in pain from walking miles at a time in the hot sun or freezing cold; ever felt the loneliness of being away from family; ever felt the fear of being killed or maimed? Did you leave that to the other guy? Do you live in the U.S. and enjoy the freedoms some other guy provided for you; paying for it with his

blood? You now criticize him. Finally, please do not bring God or the Church into it as that too is open to interpretation. When I was 20 years old, a Catholic priest in South Vietnam hung a plastic medal around my neck and the necks of the Catholic soldiers with me. He told us it was OK to kill in these circumstances and if we did die we had a ticket straight

to heaven!! No wonder so many of our veterans still suffer from psychological damage. As for you, Mr. Scibilia-Carver, since you are so critical and unhappy with the soldiers who defend this country, perhaps you should move elsewhere.

John T. Senka
Route 224
Montour Falls

Expose children to role models

To the editors:

We reflected upon your (Aug. 10) article on the "priesthood crisis" with some sadness. But as we read Father Tony Muguvero's comments, we could not help but smile. Priests such as he are the role models for future candidates to the priesthood — "the priesthood is rooted in a strong desire to share Jesus with others" and who better to convey this message to others? As parents, it is our responsibility to expose our children to the dynamic priests our diocese has to offer. Their influence does not stop after Mass on Sunday! We offer no solutions to the crisis but we do feel that respect for the priesthood must start early. We try very hard to instill in our five children the true meaning of a profession

that demands such passion, loyalty and commitment. We have made it a priority to surround ourselves with priests who embrace the Holy Spirit in all that they do. Father Tony is one such priest and we would be honored if any of our three young sons would choose the same noble path as he! As we continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood let us also remember to thank God for all the wonderful priests we have who carry on His Son's work here on Earth.

Bharti and Tom Dunne
West Bloomfield Road
Mendon

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter was sent by e-mail shortly after the Aug. 10 article to which it refers. It inadvertently became "lost" in our production system. We regret the delay.

Eliminate abortion to prevent nuclear war

To the editors:

At a recent Washington, D.C., press conference, Detroit's Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton expressed his views on nuclear disarmament.

These views followed the response of U.S. presidential candidates regarding this issue.

Surprisingly, Bishop Gumbleton said his vote would go to Greenpeace candidate Ralph Nader because of Nader's call for an immediate cut of nuclear weapons.

However, Mr. Nader also supports abortion, an evil that the late Mother

Teresa credits for much of the world's violence.

It would seem then that the threat of nuclear war depends mainly on stopping abortion than signing an unverifiable comprehensive test ban treaty.

During the Fatima apparitions our Blessed Mother told the three children that war is a punishment for sin.

Surely abortion fits that category and should be given our highest priority if we are to avoid violence, nuclear or otherwise.

Robert Bart
Ithaca