

OPINIONS

Catholic Courier

©2000, Rochester Catholic Press Association.

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

President

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

General Manager/Editor

Karen M. Franz
kfranz@catholiccourier.com

Editorial Department

Assistant Editor

Kathleen Schwar *Finger Lakes*
kschwar@catholiccourier.com

Staff Writers

Rob Cullivan *Genesee Valley*
rcullivan@catholiccourier.com
Mike Latona *Southern Tier*
mlatona@catholiccourier.com

Staff Photographer

Andrea A. Dixon
adixon@catholiccourier.com

Editorial Assistant

Louis Litzenberger

Photo Intern

John Powell

Business Department

Office Manager

Mary DiPonzio

Administrative Assistant

Arlene S. Gall

Circulation Manager

Donna Stubbings

Subscription Sales

Joyce Kluchko
Marilyn Musson

Graphics Department

Graphics Manager

Kim Parks

Graphic Artist

Linda Jeanne Rivers

Advertising Department

Account Executives

Ralph Hyman
rhyman@catholiccourier.com
Donald P. Wilson
dwilson@catholiccourier.com

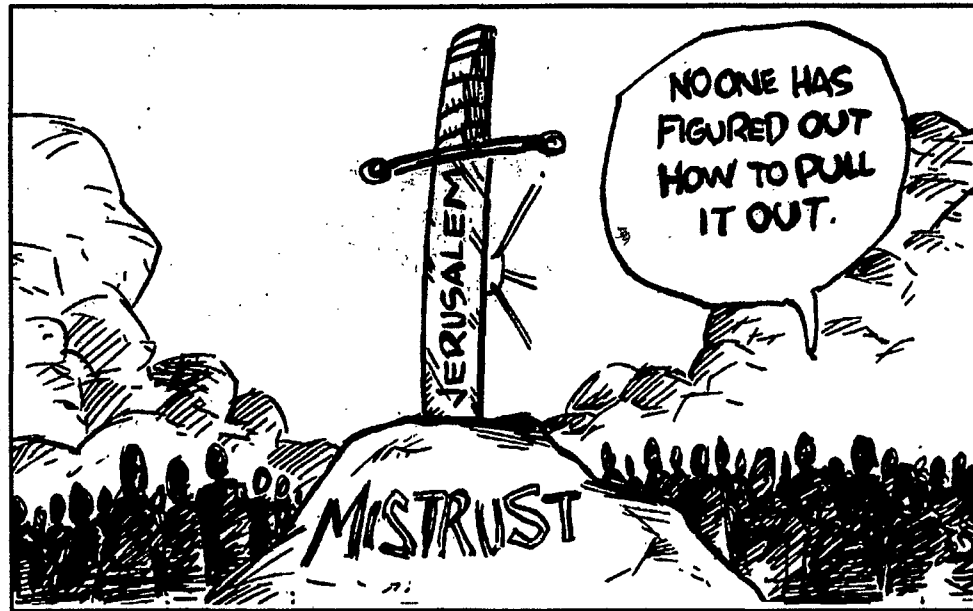
Letters Policy

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.



Abortion is main concern

To the editors:

I was saddened and disappointed to read a recent letter from a religious educator saying that abortion should not be a single issue in this coming election. I don't see how other issues could be more important.

The horrible method being used to kill our children must be of primary concern to all who profess to believe in a Creator. It is hypocrisy to consider other issues including social justice, health care, and social security as being more important than opposing an industry which kills and auctions off the body parts of fully viable children. I am confident that any sensible human being who could see a partial birth abortion would agree to stop this act of infanticide.

Regardless of your party affiliation Catholic Christians have a moral obligation to support pro life candidates.

Since *Roe vs. Wade* we have aborted 38 million American children. Of that 38 million it has been estimated that we have aborted 8,000 to 10,000 priests. Death and

killing have become solutions to so many of our social problems.

Doctors killing children, young mothers killing children, high school students killing each other, gratuitous killing in movies, television and video games.

Just today we have approved RU-486, the abortion pill. Now the mother will be directly responsible for the abortion, and she will have to flush the miscarriage down the toilet. Yet so many refuse to admit that this death culture started when we decided that the miracle of life was no longer sacred. Now we are on the slippery slope, but it's not too late to turn this around.

Pro abortion candidates could not get elected without the support of Catholics. At every Mass we say "all life, all holiness comes from you (the Father) through your Son, Jesus Christ, by the working of the Holy Spirit." If all life comes from the Trinity, how is it possible to reconcile this faith statement with support for pro abortion candidates? In truth we really cannot.

T.J. Scott
Friar Tuck Lane, Webster

Weigh value of born, unborn life

To the editors:

Thank you for "Religious leaders seek nuclear weapons views" in the Sept. 14 issue. As usual, many Catholics will ignore the work of bishops while claiming adherence to "church" authority.

Two of the letters in the "Opinion" section of the Sept. 28 issue contain significant errors.

First, Rita Sartori, while understandably horrified by partial birth abortion, has far too limited a perception of Catholic "pro-life" issues to begin to evaluate presidential candidates. Where are the pro-life issues beyond abortion and capital punishment? How would our candidates be evaluated on the Consistent Life Ethic teachings of call to participation, option for the poor, rights of workers, global solidarity, and care for God's creation?

You also published Robert Bart's misidentification of Ralph Nader as the "Greenpeace candidate." Mr. Nader, who himself does not have a party affiliation, is

endorsed by the Green Party, and is on the ballot as such here in New York. While the Green Party and Greenpeace may share many compatible goals, Greenpeace is an environmental justice organization, not a political party. Perhaps Mr. Bart's understanding of our bishop's teachings is as cloudy as his understanding of national politics.

Catholics are in shocked denial resulting from our participation in the atrocities of racism, slavery, nuclear war, rampant armament, and genocide. It is just too much to see and feel all that's being done to harm real human people: living creatures born into this world. Instead, we become obsessed with the unborn. Too many Catholics are preoccupied with when life begins. Too few Catholics are responding to fully born, fully human people who are exploited, marginalized, or abandoned.

Richard Carl Wolf
Cayuga Street
Rochester

Writer's sister devoted herself to Birthright

To the editors:

I write to clarify information contained in a Sept. 14 news article ("Priest-activist wins award; Project Rachel plans events") in the *Catholic Courier*. Staff Writer Mike Latona was given incorrect or misleading information regarding the formation of Birthright Inc. of Rochester. The organization was founded by Muriel Trumfio and Marie Callahan Jesmer, not by the Rochester Right to Life as stated in the article.

I am unable to speak for Muriel, a co-director of Birthright, but I do remember firsthand the countless hours my sister Marie devoted to the formation of Birthright, including a number of trips to

Toronto to confer with Birthright founder, Louise Summerhill. Marie was then involved in the formation of a Board of Directors, legal incorporation, recruitment and training of a wonderful, dedicated staff of volunteers, and acting as a co-director of Birthright at St. Mary's Hospital, along with her friend Muriel. Marie continued in this capacity for many years while raising her three young adopted children.

Now that Marie is in fragile health, I like to remember my sister's many years devoted to the right to life of the unborn child and to the compassionate support of women facing problem pregnancies.

Jane E. Callahan
West 4th Street, Elmira

Region was blessed by volunteers, visit

To the editors:

As Regional Coordinator for the Chemung/Schuylers region, I was very proud of the many volunteers of our region for their labor of love in the Oct. 4 Jubilee Vespers with Bishop Clark at St. Peter and Paul Church in Elmira. His presence with this diverse group united in our common prayer was a powerful experience of the local Church, and our shared silence, songs and prayers brought peace to many hearts, as well as my own.

I would like to thank the parish staffs, faith communities and pastoral leaders for their help, and the wonderful, talented people who assisted at the service, with such a wide range of age groups. Thanks, also, to the people from the region who came to the service, as well as to Father Tim Brown (bishop's secretary) and Ginny Miller (Office of Liturgy), who came with the bishop. Special thanks to St. Joseph's Hospital for the use of their lobby for the reception afterward. St. Mary's Parish of Elmira also deserves special mention, as they were omitted from the program listing of participating parishes. Please pardon the oversight!

Finally, a word of thanks to Bishop Clark for his gracious and hospitable presence with us. Our region has been truly blessed by not only his visit Oct. 4, but also his visiting us for the Blue Mass September 29 for police officers and their families.

Father Patrick Connor
High Street
Elmira

Priest prayer requests move to Internet site

To the editors:

Lee Beaudrault joins me in thanking you and all your readers who supported the Pray for Priests Calendar "MPRP" (Monthly Prayer Request for Priests advertisement) which had been discontinued in the *Catholic Courier* due to financial distress.

However, God does provide and another door has opened. The monthly calendar for priests can be found on the website of St. Anne Church beginning October 1, 2000. The website address is www.saintannechurch.org. Comments and suggestions can be e-mailed to the St. Anne webmaster.

Let's continue to pray for our priests. Thank you.

Mary M. Reilich
Green Knolls Drive
Rochester

Writer's view of justice 'a bit old and dusty'

To the editors:

Mr. Walter C. Ervin Jr.'s definition of "true justice" is a bit old and dusty. An "eye for an eye" may have worked in Old Testament times but I believe that Jesus gave us something better. Also, I believe that Jesus has a real personal reason to oppose the death penalty. If Mr. Ervin believes that life in prison without parole is a lesser sentence than the death penalty, he is mistaken.

I would like to pose Mr. Ervin a hypothetical situation: suppose Mr. Ervin, that — God forbid — one of your children or loved one goes horribly wrong and is convicted of capital murder. Do you favor the death penalty in their case?

Daniel T. Quilty
Kosciusko Street
Rochester