

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.

Let's pray for women who abort

To the editors:

It is a shame the FDA has approved of an abortion drug which will do so much damage and take away innocent unborn babies. First of all, this drug is not healthy for the mother and secondly, they are defying the Lord. Mostly they are committing a very sinful act.

Having a child is one of the most miraculous experiences a woman can render. Those who have had abortions certainly must regret it very deeply. What can they do? Ask God for forgiveness and actually be sorry for their grievous sin? It will constantly be on their mind for days to come. In fact, it could drive any woman to become insane. So, you women, be aware of this because your soul is more vital. As we know, it is a mortal sin in the eyes of God and our Catholic teachings.

Whenever a woman is carrying a baby, it should not be tampered with by abortion, no matter what the case. That baby was developed by God and it should have the right of life and should be thought of something special and sacred.

In case of a rape or a blind date or not planning to have more children, one must go through this pregnancy regard-



less. In this day and age, abortion is common. Many years ago our grandmothers and mothers wouldn't think of such an occurrence. Now there is a place for unwanted babies like adoption and orphanages. Remember, taking the life of an unborn child is another act of committing murder. Bringing a child into this world is one of God's wonderful miracles. Raising a family takes a lot of patience and many sacrifices. It also involves giving much love and care. There are many tiresome days, but it will be well worth it. Without a family, what good is a marriage. Life could be very empty. Some women would give their right arm to have a child but others prefer to abort.

It is so good to thank the Lord every night for my five grown children. They

have been my pride and joy. Then, too, I have 14 grandchildren to be so grateful for and they, too, are so loving and thoughtful. After thinking about life, what more happiness can one receive.

Let's pray for those mothers who have aborted a child and ask God for their forgiveness. Now with Rachel's Vineyard for women, they can work through grief they feel over their abortions. With the sacrament of confession, one can confess their serious sin to God and ask forgiveness. Perhaps after this, one might live with themselves in time. It is so pleasing to know and feel there is a God. God bless America!

Anna Groat Burley
Burley Road
Clyde

Booklet explains spiritual nature of Mass

To the editors:

With the advent of the new Roman Missal and its subsequent changes to parish liturgy, many voices are being raised, many letters written — some in support, others in disagreement. But one fact seems clear — there exists much confusion and ignorance among Catholics regarding the spiritual realities taking place within the Mass.

I was very fortunate to discover a booklet entitled *The Mass: Its Mysteries Revealed* by George P. Morse. This booklet is a treasure and has opened my eyes and heart to the beauty, power and graces inherent at each Mass. In the words of the author, "Many millions of Catholics attend Holy Mass. A great number do not appear to know fully what is taking place on the altar. And that is precisely the message of this book. This booklet is not about what we can see. It is not about liturgical signs

and symbols. Rather, it is about what is taking place within those signs and actions; about what is really important, or shall we say, Who really matters. It is Jesus Christ and the Supernatural reality and grace present in every Mass."

"You may read this booklet to re-discover timeless truths you first learned as a child. Or, you may read this booklet and be surprised to discover, for the first time, not only the meaning of the Holy Eucharist, but the power, the energy and attractive splendor of this great Sacrifice ... it brings before the reader the essential truths taught by the Catholic Church about the Sacrifice, Transubstantiation and the Real Presence because it is only after we grasp these truths that we realize fully why we should receive the Eucharist and how it unites us to God and to one another."

I encourage each of you — priests, reli-

gious and laity — to obtain a copy of this great treasure. It can be read in an hour's time and the cost is most reasonable — under \$9. But, more importantly, the rewards of fully participating in the Liturgy and obtaining the subsequent graces for ourselves, our families, our Church, our world, are far beyond any money or time expended. Enjoy!

Copies of this book can be purchased through the author. Phone: 301/434-3245; fax 301/434-5486.

Mary Klebes
Long Acre Road
Rochester

Pioneers clarify agency's origins

To the editors:

Jane E. Callahan's letter (Oct. 19) raised a question about the formation of Birthright Inc. of Rochester, and we would like to clarify.

In the process of building the Rochester Area Right to Life organization in late 1970 and 1971, the directors believed their efforts should be directed to developing three committees: 1) to assist women who, without help, might turn to abortion. We used the name "Birthright" after the organization founded by Louise Summerhill of Toronto; 2) Education; and 3) Legislation. Later a political action committee was added.

Minutes indicate that the "Birthright" Committee was headed by Marie Jesmer, Father Robert Miller, CSB and Muriel Trun-

fio. They were to do the groundwork in forming a "Birthright" for Rochester. From the beginning it was understood that it would eventually function autonomously, as we agreed with Mrs. Summerhill that it would function best if not connected to legislative or political activity.

Thanks to the commitment and diligent work of the committee, Birthright-Rochester came into existence with a separate board of directors, focusing on the needs of women facing problem pregnancies and was graciously welcomed to operate in the Kearney Building by the Sisters of St. Mary's Hospital.

Muriel C. Trunfio
Jeanne D. Sweeney
Nob Hill
Rochester

Paper overlooks events of worth

To the editors:

I write this letter to express my disappointment that important events related to our Catholic Church and our diocese are not being covered or even mentioned in our diocesan newspaper.

The first event was a gathering in Rome on Oct. 8 and 9 where Pope John Paul and the bishops of the world entrusted the world and the third millennium to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I don't know whether Bishop Clark participated; however this kind of special Jubilee Year event deserves to be covered in the *Courier*.

The second event was the Marian Conference which took place on Oct. 14 at the Theater on the Ridge. About 2,000 people from our own diocese came to this spirit- and grace-filled event. Yet, there was not a word about this in the Oct. 19 issue.

Why are such relevant events that bring us closer to God not covered or mentioned in our diocesan paper?

Bruno Petrauskas
Austin Drive, Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: We do not have the resources to cover annual events each time they occur. However, the Oct. 5 *Courier* did feature a Marian Conference speaker and musician.

E-mail your views to letters@catholiccourier.com

or mail to *Catholic Courier*,

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