

OPINIONS

Time to realize we're on same team

To the editors:

Mr. Richard Wolf raises some good points in his letter from the Oct. 19 issue, "Weigh value of born, unborn life," regarding pro-life inclusion of issues beyond abortion and capital punishment. Certainly the Consistent Life Ethic promoted by the Diocese of Rochester over this past decade is concerned with the respect of all human life, and also includes the issues of euthanasia, war, economic injustice and violence. But, some other comments in his letter seem to strongly promote the value of "real human people: living creatures born into this world" over the unborn, thereby neglecting ongoing teachings of the Church leaders. To quote Pope John Paul II, we are called "... to respect every human person, especially the weakest and most defenseless ones, those as yet unborn." Similar statements have also been expressed by the U.S. Bishops ("Living the Gospel of Life").

The question may be stated: why is so much attention given to the unborn? The answer to this can be found in a fuller understanding of the connection between the importance of defending the lives of the unborn and helping those who are "real human people." The connection is that the unborn and the fully born are BOTH fully human. As Pope John XXIII stated, "Human life is sacred ... from its very inception it reveals the creating hand of God." Regarding the "obsession" over the unborn, with 4,400 abortions done daily and over 39 million unborn babies aborted since abortion was legalized, we would say that this obsession is well founded! Those who are fully born can march, can vote, can rally, can request aid. The unborn rely on the fully born to do that for them.

Each individual and each support group cannot possibly tackle every issue and problem. It is humanly impossible. Each will have their own priorities. But that still doesn't mean that those who are visibly supporting one area of need aren't actively doing so elsewhere. Many "pro-lifers" are active in several areas. Let's remember that all of us started our lives in the same way — as the unborn — which is a reminder of how God has tied us all together as a human family.

We all need to better understand the full meaning of God's command to be "our brother's keeper" not just at some stages of life but at all stages of life. In keeping with the directive of our Church leaders to protect and care for ALL human life, we suggest that all of us join forces and realize that we're all playing on the same team.

Dave & Barbara Snyder
Jefferson Avenue
Fairport

Grateful to parish for providing home to prayer ministry

To the editors:

Many thanks to St. Anne's Church for putting the MPRP (Monthly Prayer Request for Priests) on their Web site as it did not get the financial support needed to continue in the *Catholic Courier*.

We all have access to a computer — if not our own — through friends, relatives or library and I hope many will use the opportunity and give the priests the prayerful support they need in these trying times of priest shortage.

Thanks again St. Anne's and also thanks to Lee Beaudrault and Mary Reilich for all the time and effort they have given MPRP in the past.

St. Anne's Web site is: www.sainnane.org

Mary P. Barnard
Kernwood Drive
Rochester



Reviewer's unfamiliarity contributed to poor review

To the editors:

Mr. McKay's review of the Oberammergau Passion Play book in the October 26 *Courier* is a prime example of someone writing about something with lack of first-hand knowledge. He admits he has not seen the Passion Play.

I was privileged to view the play in August of this year and it was truly one of the most moving experiences of my life. The portrayal of Jesus's passion, death, and resurrection was awesome. The crucifixion scene was especially breathtaking; you could hear a pin drop in the audience of 4700. The play was captured beautifully by the wonderful photographs shown in the book. Many of the photos were bloody, but we're fooling ourselves if we think that Christ's Passion was anything less than bloody.

I am known for my photography. The book's wonderful photos were taken by professional photographers during early performances this year. They were not

contrived, but, rather, a realistic recording of what the audience saw.

As for the history of the play, the book's introduction does an excellent job. It also discusses the anti-Semitic problems in the past and how they are being corrected in the play. It might be noted that Pope John Paul II has spent much effort in the last 20 years trying to correct the Catholic Church's portrayal of the role of the Jews in Christ's death in earlier years.

I will gladly continue to grace my coffee table with this beautiful and accurate capturing of the magnificent Oberammergau Passion Play. I have not seen the children's version; therefore, I have no comments on that book.

James L. Hart
Stowell Drive
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: Mr. McKay did not volunteer to review these two books. We asked him to do it, after receiving them unsolicited from the publisher.

Leaders thank volunteers for aid, making pilgrimage memorable

To the editors:

We the Core Committee of the October 15 Diocesan Family Pilgrimage 2000 wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the over 200 people who enthusiastically volunteered their time and energies in order to make the day a huge success. These wonderful people came from all 12 counties of the diocese. They ranged in age from 7 to 70+. They staffed games, parked cars, sang songs, performed skits, tended cuts and scrapes, and did much, much more. It was because of their efforts that over 1500 people had an experience that will be a cherished memory for a long time to come.

The work that the volunteers did is in-

dicative of the tremendous faith and generosity that exists in the families of our diocese. They are the proof that family life and faith are not things of the past but are thriving and growing even today. They show to all of us that faith really does start at home and moves out to the whole world.

Again, thanks to all the people that made the Pilgrimage 2000 both possible and successful. God truly moves through you.

Gail Brooks
Scott Rutan
Marilyn Smith Steane
Family Pilgrimage 2000
Core Planning Committee

Why no outcry over campaign using priest?

To the editors:

On Saturday, November 4, 2000, three days before the election and too late to react effectively, we received a mailing from Monsignor James P. Lisante. He indicated that he was Pro-Life Director for his diocese, which was unidentified. The return address was a P.O. box in Bay Shore, Long Island. In his letter, the monsignor asked that we vote for Rick Lazio who was less Pro-Choice than Mrs. Clinton. The mail-

ing was paid for by Lazio 2000, Inc.

This comes on the heels of Mrs. Clinton's speaking, by invitation, at a church in Rochester. Where is the outcry in this later incident? Are we using a double standard? Mrs. Clinton, a candidate for office, was invited. Monsignor Lisante, a man of the Church, is being used.

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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.