

# OPINIONS

## Catholic Courier

©2001, 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

newsroom@catholiccourier.com

### 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 Litzberger  
llitzberger@catholiccourier.com

### Photography Intern

David Wallace

### Business Department

#### Office Manager

Mary DiPonzo  
mdpionzo@catholiccourier.com

#### Administrative Assistant

Arlene S. Gall  
agall@catholiccourier.com

#### Circulation Manager

Donna Stubbings  
dstubbings@catholiccourier.com

### Graphics Department

#### Graphics Manager

Kim Parks  
kparks@catholiccourier.com

#### Graphic Artist

Linda Jeanne Rivers  
lrivers@catholiccourier.com

### Advertising Department

#### Account Executives

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

#### Classified Advertising

Joyce Kluchko

### 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.

## For unity's sake, stick to the rules for liturgy

### To the editors:

A big problem in our diocese is the lack of obedience and unity.

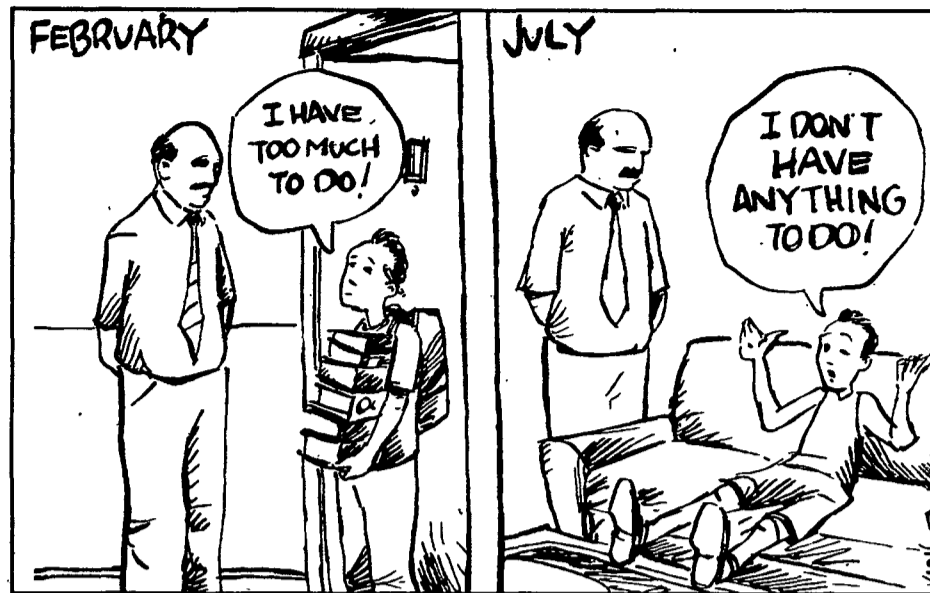
Within one month I went to two weddings at two different parishes. At the one, the priest gently reminded the congregation that only Catholics should receive Communion and that those Catholics should be properly disposed to receive worthily. At the other wedding the priest invited everyone to receive Communion.

Many parishes permit religious or lay people to give the homily while other parishes abide by the rule that only the priest can give the homily. Girls are now permitted to be altar servers, but before permission was granted many parishes ignored that rule. Some parishes change the words in the Sunday readings or even leave out passages if, in their judgment, the passage is offensive. There was a priest that would omit the word Father, in reference to God, because he wanted to be sensitive to women. Another priest would avoid any reference to our Blessed Mother during the Mass.

I'm sure there are many other examples. The point is, this lack of unity in the outward practice of our Catholic Faith harms the Church. For one thing it causes division among Catholics. At the very least it is a distraction. If you are participating at Mass and the priest suddenly does or says something that you know is not permitted, your focus gets sidetracked. Why is it so hard for many parishes, for the sake of unity and order, to simply abide by the rules set up by the Church? Why do some priests think they have the right to make their own changes in the Mass? Doesn't the right of the congregation to participate in the Mass the way the Church has declared supersede the priest's individual preference or agenda?

For the sake of unity and for a lessening of division in our diocese, I urge our Bishop and priests to consider fully obeying all the rules and teachings of our Church. If you want change, then work for it, but don't force it on others before the Church has agreed to the change.

Raymond N. Buonemani  
Holcroft Road  
Rochester



## Abortion can't be redefined

### To the editors:

Some people think that by downsizing the meaning of a word — making it sound not quite so drastic — it will lessen its REAL meaning, making it seemingly more palatable: from murder down to abort down to terminate OR from baby to fetus to glob of tissues. Thus, instead of killing a baby one is simply eradicating a glob of unwanted tissue. No REAL mother would kill her child, or consent to it; no REAL doctor would deliberately destroy a life. A baby is still a baby — a REAL person, from the moment of conception.

Those advocating "choice" as a "right" — doing with their own bodies as they please, such as rectifying a "mistake" with erasure — give NO such "right" to the tiny person within them. The only moral "choice" to

be made is BEFORE the act of creating another person takes place, not after it is accomplished.

I sometimes wonder which of these tiny slain persons might have been the one sent by God who would discover a cure for cancer, or bring about world peace, or lead our country back to its once high moral standards, or something else wonderful. What a great loss — for us all.

Whether one believes in God or not, He IS REAL and will one day demand an accounting of what we have done. He is merciful, but He is also just.

Pro-choice people — do you ever thank God that YOUR mother didn't make a negative choice when you were conceived?

Betty DeBlasio  
West Hill Road, Elmira

## Appalled that church apparently embraces 'righteousness' of Bush

### To the editors:

We are appalled that "President" Bush is being embraced by Catholics who supposedly believe in a consistent life ethic. Does the consistent life ethic take into consideration only the unborn and once you're born, the responsibility ends? Or does the responsibility end only after you have committed a heinous crime? Have we forgotten that as governor of Texas he has executed over 200 people?

And what about his environmental record and proposals? Will they not ultimately eliminate the whole human race? Maybe not in our time, or even in our grandchildren's time, but we are on a crash course with environmental devastation — make no mistake about it.

During the inauguration festivities, Larry Gatlin compared Florida's Attorney

General, Katherine Harris, to Mother Teresa saying, "In India they had Mother Teresa, in Florida we have Katherine Harris." This is an abomination. How dare he compare a woman whose only goal in life was to comfort the afflicted to a woman who assisted a United States Presidential candidate in stealing an election? Why has the Catholic Church not demanded an apology?

In the aftermath of William Jefferson Clinton's indiscretions, the Catholic church seems to have embraced this righteous "President" with open arms, but the church better than anyone should recognize the difference between being righteous and being right.

Carol and Brian Mulligan  
Sibley Road  
Honeoye Falls

## Discomforts pale in comparison to world tragedies

### To the editors:

Recently there have been earthquakes in numerous countries such as El Salvador and India. After having their homes destroyed, they have no place to go. People build fires on the streets to keep warm. Crews are digging for bodies, hoping to find some alive. Ambulances are carrying the injured to hospitals with missing limbs and hurrying patients for surgery. If possible, some injuries are cared for on the spot. Thousands of people have been killed, which could not be prevented, as

the quake has stricken in certain areas. There is a need for medical supplies, food, water, and clothing. With such tremendous losses, thousands of people are devastated because of this eruption. It is vital that these countries get help.

As we view conditions on TV we recognize women weeping after the loss of their loved ones and their homes. Many children are separated from their families and have become orphans. By the grace of God some are found under the debris. What a godly moment this must be.

We Americans have a horrid winter at times and flee to Florida or a warmer state for the few extended months. The poverty which is suffered by these earthquake countries we cannot imagine. Actually, we cannot compare how devastating their earthquakes must be side of our winters.

Pure water is vital to allow the prevention of infectious diseases. Inhabitants need to rebuild their homes, businesses, churches, hospitals and medical centers. They are in need of much charity. All I can say is, may the Lord watch over these unfortunate people. Their lives will be sad for quite awhile, and they also need our prayers.

President Bush has offered to aid India and the Catholic Relief Services is aiding the people of El Salvador. An address is: Catholic Relief Services, PO Box 17210, Baltimore, MD 21298-9691.

Anna Groat Burley  
Burley Road  
Clyde

## So what is church teaching on 'limbo'?

### To the editors:

Regarding Father Richard McBrien's Jan. 4 column "...limbo in limbo":

After going on and on about today's modern usage of the word "limbo," Father McBrien, in his usual scornful and belittling way of commenting on some of our long-taught and long-held beliefs, nev-

er gets to the point of teaching us anything about what he just tore apart!

Is there a teacher/theologian out there today who can enlighten us about the current teaching on limbo — namely, where do the unbaptized go?

Leona F. Hancock  
Belmont Road, Rochester