

# 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.

## Obvious struggle of conscience

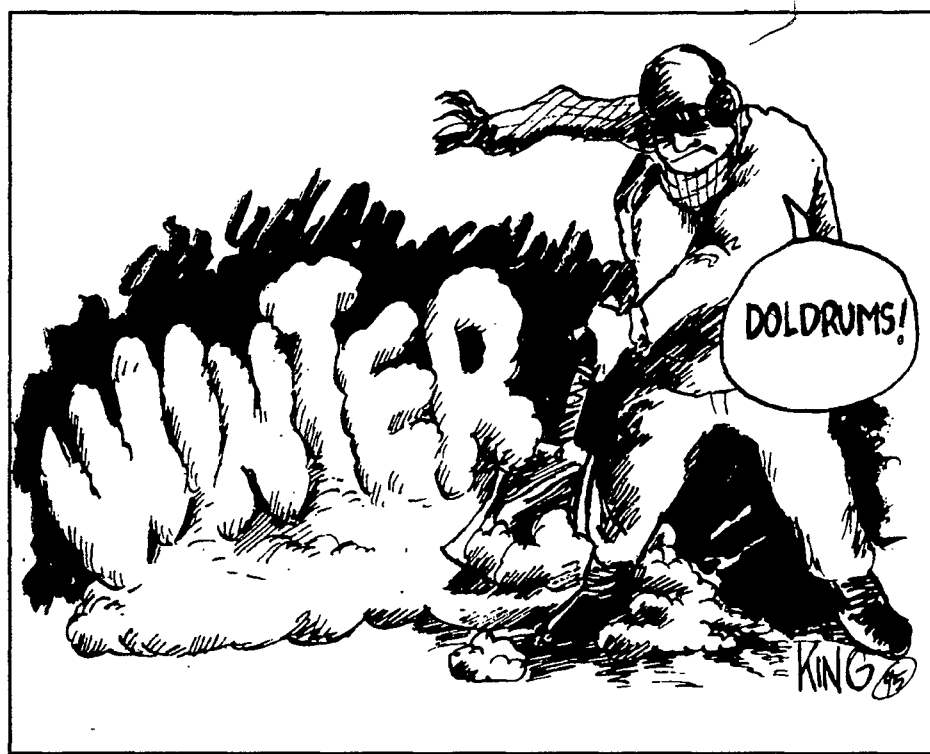
### To the editors:

I've seen scores of letters in this and other papers from Catholics trying to justify their vote for Gore or other Democratic candidates. The crux of their arguments seems to be that Bush isn't pro-life enough, because he supports the death penalty. Of course everyone knows Gore — and the Democratic Party — have been consistently pro-abortion and only oppose the death penalty when they're looking for the black vote. Everyone also knows the nation may execute a thousand criminals a year, but it murders MILLIONS of INNOCENT unborn a year. Practicing Catholics also know the church has preached about the evils of abortion and the death penalty for centuries.

But this rationalization has reached new levels! Carol and Brian Mulligan think the POTENTIAL that Bush MIGHT mess up the environment is a greater evil than the 40 MILLION babies ALREADY killed. Does it occur to them that one or more of those 40 million might have solved our environmental problems? They accuse Bush of "stealing" the election and bemoan the church's action in "embracing" the new president. A writer to last week's *Our Sunday Visitor* thinks the Church suddenly became Republican. Nonsense, nonsense, and more nonsense. The church doesn't endorse candidates or parties. It endorses righteous behavior. It's not the church which has changed, it's Catholics who turned from its teaching.

I don't know a pro-life Republican, Conservative, or Independent who doesn't care about the environment, race relations, labor relations, education and poverty. We just believe in trying to stop the greater sins first. When I see rationalizations this warped, it's obvious many Catholics are struggling with their consciences.

**Jim Canale**  
Brentwood Drive  
Homer



## Pray abortion is overturned

### To the editors:

Monroe County reported 40 murders last year; we should add the 2000+ babies killed thru abortion. We have laws that punish people who murder and laws that ignore murder and call it choice. This occurs in a civilized society. I saw a TV segment on abandoned infants; if the baby dies, the mother can be charged with murder. However, if the baby were abandoned while in the womb, it would be legal.

Our recent election had Divine Intervention as the popular vote chose a pro-abortion/pro-choice candidate while the Electoral College chose an anti-abor-

tion/pro-life candidate. Let's pray that President Bush will overturn abortion, a man-made law and follow the Commandment, Thou Shalt Not Kill, one of God's Laws.

People argue about at what point life begins in the womb. We can all make our own assumptions, hopefully based on logic. If there is any, any question at all, why should we dare risk Murder by continuing abortion? People speak of the right to a choice, what about the baby's right to be born, to live?

Please choose life.

**Steve DeLucia**  
Webster

## Who will fund cathedral work?

### To the editors:

There seems to be a lot of conversation regarding renovations of the Cathedral and other churches. I seriously wonder at this time where the funding for these endeavors will come from. Recent layoffs at Xerox, Bausch & Lomb, Kodak, Valco etc. have increased the unemployment lines

by thousands.

Before asking for pledges to fund these activities, a lot more consideration should be given to the necessity and magnitude of these renovations.

**Jane Myers**  
Gateway Avenue  
Rochester

## St. Michael's beckons return visit

### To the editors:

Awhile ago a local evening news did a story about the 7 p.m. Sunday Mass at old St. Michael's Church on North Clinton Avenue, and WXXI featured the church in the documentary "Houses of Worship." What surprises awaited a friend and I that first night we attended!

The bells give a glorious welcome as you approach this imposing, historic church. Some are rung by ropes in the entranceway, and anyone can give a few pulls to add to the celebration. Music from the magnificent organ, with trumpet accompaniment, gives a spectacular sound that practically lifts your heart out of your body.

**Robert L. Wilcox**  
Stalker Road  
Macedon

## Pleasure to read financial report

### To the editors:

In my humble opinion, the Thursday, Feb. 15, issue of the *Catholic Courier* is one of the best and most informative you have ever printed. It was a pleasure and gratifying to read and peruse the diocesan fiscal report for the year 2000.

I believe that the majority of diocesan Catholics appreciate heartily the financial report disseminated on the condition of the diocese in that respect. It is something of a tribute to the loyal Catholic population of the diocese that Bishop Clark, his committee leaders, and pastoral ministry staff personnel in the parishes of the far-flung diocese have seen fit to publish the

financial report yearly. The soundness of the fiscal report should be most reassuring to our diocesan parishioners in knowing what is done with the money appropriated and invested.

I think that Bishop Clark has conducted his diocesan stewardship well as did his predecessors. Should enough of our diocesan parishioners read this edition of the paper, then perhaps the volume of criticism of Bishop Clark's leadership by dubious and dissident Catholics will diminish.

**William J. Rivette**  
West Church Street  
Elmira

## Priests on call all day, night

### To the editors:

Regarding "Priests should try adoration," (letter, Feb. 15): I think Mr. Goodwin needs to be informed about what priests do, after locking up the church at night.

First of all, I have seen priests pray before the Blessed Sacrament after Mass. They also visit the sick in the hospital and in their homes, baptize, say wedding and funeral Masses, hear confessions, meet with people who have problems etc. They are on call 24 hours a day.

So, don't wonder anymore; just hope and pray we will always have priests available to us in our time of need.

I would like to end with my favorite quote: "He who does nothing will never be criticized."

**Marie J. Kowalczyk**  
Cristine Circle, Penfield

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