

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.

Appeal to Jesus for end to shortage

To the editors:

Vocations in the United States seem to have fallen by the wayside. Who is to blame? I believe it rests on just about everyone's shoulder: parental indifference, hardly ever mentioned from the pulpit, although of late inserts have been made in Sunday church bulletins. Such being the case, I respectfully suggest a way that the vocation shortage will come to an end. Read on and judge for yourself.

Praying the name of Jesus, thereby bombarding heaven with the request that God will bring the shortage to an end. Following are some examples and incidents when the name Jesus was prayed. Lo and behold the prayers of those faithful were answered.

Venerable Bishop Dominican Melchior, Chinese martyr, was being put to death by executioners who hacked his body with rough swords piece by piece, eyes tearing off his flesh. No sign of pain was visible as he loudly said JESUS, JESUS, JESUS until he drew his last breath.

St. Christiana, a slave Christian girl in Kurdistan, by saying the name of Jesus when called including royalty, their healing was immediate.

In 1432 a deadly plague broke out in Lisbon threatening the entire country of Portugal. Priests, doctors, animals, nurses, people all fell victims of the plague. Bishop Dias seeing that the plague was spreading called the people to the church of St. Dominic, sprinkled them with holy water and implored them to repeat the name Jesus, Jesus. In a few days the city was delivered of the plague. Word spread throughout Portugal to say the name of Jesus and in a short time the entire country was freed of the plague!

During the reign of Constantine, St. Alexander ruled the see in Constantinople. The pagans saw many followers become Christians and demanded a public hearing with St. Alexander. The pagans were represented by an excellent orator. St. Alexander was no match for him. The day of the conference the pagan orator started his attack. In the meantime St. Alexander sat in his chair and repeated over and over the name Jesus. The pagan lost his "thread of discourse" and was unable to finish his speech. Proving once again the power in saying the name Jesus.

The list of persons who were granted their petitions by saying the name of Jesus is long — too long for space allotted in "letters to the editor."

When human beings find themselves in difficulty, they go to a doctor, lawyer, etc. Rest assured that if their problem is not resolved the name of God will be prayed by the majority of people for help.

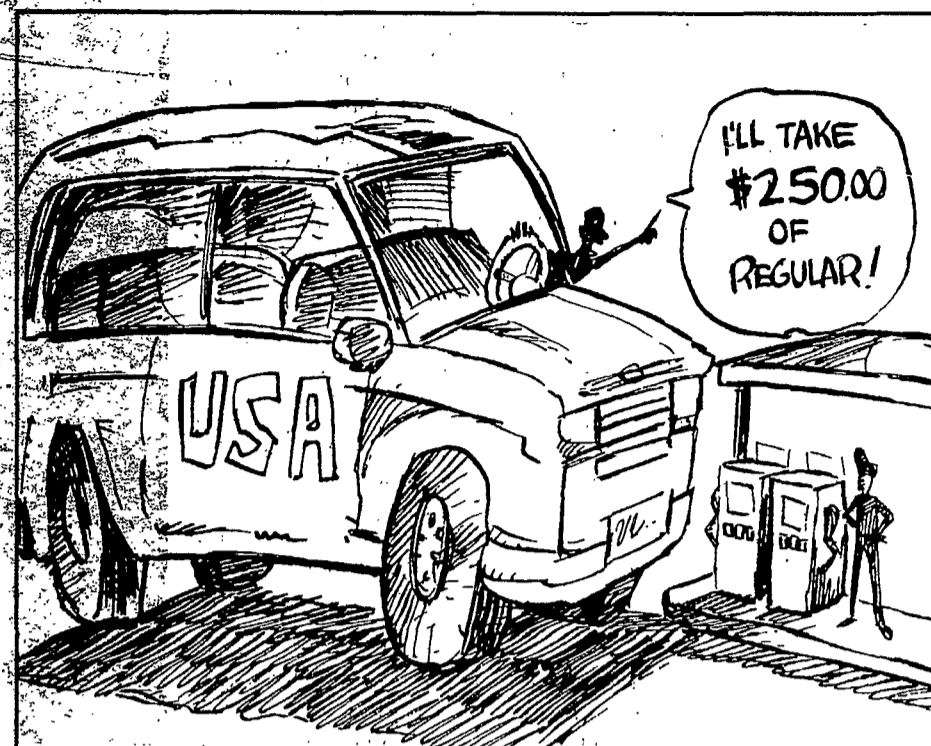
What does all the above lead to? A concerted effort should be made by Catholics all across the nation — recommended by our hierarchy and clergy. I see no reason why the National Bishops Council could not lead this drive for more vocations by imploring the name of Jesus, Jesus and enlighten the minds and hearts of both men and women to enter the convent and the seminary.

Calling on the name of Jesus has cured many people, resolved many problems in the past. I am positive this approach will bear fruit in bringing both men and women into the religious life. Like the plague in Portugal, it will be resolved and our seminaries and convents will once again be filled.

Finally, Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and shall be opened unto you." He also said, "The things that are impossible for 'humans' are possible with God."

I honestly believe the mercy and love of God will grant our request. Jesus, Jesus we pray, grant us our petition and bring priests and nuns back into Your church. Again and again we pray, JESUS, JESUS, JESUS!!!

Francis J. Mastropietro
Clark Street, Auburn



Life is fundamental right

To the editors:

On March 8 a very ambiguous column was paid for and published by the *Courier*. The writer (Father Richard P. McBrien) stated that science is doing marvelous new things and the ordinary citizen can't possibly understand what it is all about. Therefore, the pro-lifers should change their stand. After all, many Americans support the right to abortion early in a pregnancy.

First, he mentions the vast potential of embryonic stem cell research. He fails to mention that other scientists have shown a rich lode of stem cells in the umbilical cord which is discarded at birth. Instead of harvesting stem cells from aborted babies, we should be encouraging scientists to use their skill to harvest stem cells from other sources.

Second, the article makes the false claim

that many support abortion. Those doctors and nurses who left the abortion industry tell of how surveys were invented to make people think others were in favor of abortion and this was sold to gullible press.

Third, this "essay in theology" attacks the single life issue. This is no argument at all for you can not enjoy a clean environment, save the whales, or work for justice in the workplace if you have been killed at birth. How many brilliant potential scientists have been aborted? Vocations to the religious life? Our Holy Father writes so clearly. He states that the right to life is the fundamental right and the source of all other rights (paragraph 72, *The Gospel of Life*).

Joan M. Rand
North Drive, Rochester

Free priests' time for adoration

To the editors:

There must be some truth to the adage that "with age one becomes mellow" because I read Mary J. Kowalczyk's response to my letter (Feb. 15) without any feeling of rancor whatsoever. However, I really think that she should re-read my letter, because I absolutely did not accuse priests of having nothing to do, and I certainly did not say that they did nothing after having locked up the church at night. On the contrary, I think they have too much to do, some of which is unnecessary work which they either make for themselves or which

is made for them by others.

One of the points in my original letter was that they should spend some extra time with the God to whom they have dedicated themselves, and that He will respond with an extension of that wonderful sacrifice which they have offered up to Him in the morning. I stand by what I originally said, and in fact, I place a greater emphasis on it, Ms. Kowalczyk and Father Niven notwithstanding.

George A. Goodwin, Jr.
Laredo Drive
Rochester

Would writer complain if Bush switched positions on abortion, capital punishment?

To the editors:

Clare Regan's April 5 letter "Gov. Bush supported executions" raised some important questions. According to C. Regan, juveniles, the mentally ill and the retarded were among those executed in Texas when President Bush was Governor there.

As heartless as such action would appear, did Governor Bush with malice deny due process and consideration regarding accused murderers? Hopefully not.

In another life issue, abortion, Presi-

dent Bush seems far more considerate. His pro-life actions regarding abortion are a welcome change from the previous administration that declared open season on the unborn.

Undoubtedly the lives of many unborn will be spared by a Bush presidency.

I wonder if Clare Regan would have criticized President Bush had he outlawed capital punishment but supported abortion on demand.

Robert W. Bart
Ithaca

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