

# 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.

## Jesus' view not among perspectives in column

### To the editors:

Sister Patricia Schoelles' column of May 17 was titled "Many perspectives support ending the death penalty." It's surprising that none of the perspectives mentioned is that of Jesus and the Gospel. Even when she assumes the perspective of faith and seeks to reinforce her own "questions and reservations" from several sources, the sources don't mention Jesus.

In the Gospel there is no support for any type of killing for any reason. This was a basis of the truth and power of the life ethic that Christians based on Jesus for the first three centuries. The means given by God to overcome evil and death in the world were understood to be the nonviolent ones that Jesus taught throughout his ministry and gave example of most clearly in his passion and death. The death penalty is not what Jesus taught; it is what he suffered as Father Charles McCarthy has pointed out in the retreats on Christian Nonviolence he has offered in our diocese.

When Christians assume a Gospel perspective in considering any life issue, they do not succumb to playing one issue off against another or being used by partisan politicians. The seamlessness of Jesus' garment is maintained. In every issue, someone or some group is made into an enemy and that is the enemy Jesus commanded us to love. The inseparability of the life issues is apparent from this perspective. War/militarism is capital punishment, especially for the poor of the world. Abortion is the death penalty for the individual unborn and it's war on the unborn as a class.

Despite its talk of peace and a (consistent life ethic), the Church remains pro-choice on the issue of war. This amounts to being pro-death penalty and pro-abortion for enemies. Father McCarthy says, "What is taking place here ... is diabolically deceptive in the extreme. ... Christians are using a theoretical exception to Jesus' teachings of nonviolent love in order to justify century upon century of mass slaughter. ... Christianity has become the largest single destroyer of people in war in the last 1700 years."

Perhaps Sister Pat avoids a Gospel perspective for reasons she mentioned in an October 1998 column: "... we do a grave injustice to Scripture when we apply its ancient passages directly to problems we are trying to solve in our own lives ... Invoking the figure of Jesus to justify particular positions on contemporary issues ... is dangerous business." Yet, she does not find it "dangerous business" to accept just war theory - "We must be patriotic, that's for sure." Feb. 19 column - which is certainly not based on the Gospel and which amounts to a just death penalty theory!

Sister Pat concluded her April 16, 1998 column by "resolving to study pacifism" and we were to expect a column on Jesus' command to love our enemies. Now she advocates "deeper reflection" on the death penalty, but not too deep. She adds nothing to what the Pope and the bishops have already written. In short, one need not take this column very seriously. There are no risks here and the war/abortion connection is not made. We may prick up our ears if "the moral life" ever talks with some passion about ending the Constantian/Just War Era and making the nonviolence of Jesus the keystone of our CLE instead of the present sham version which can ultimately do little to challenge the culture of death.

**Mark Scibilia-Carver**  
Cold Springs Road, Trumansburg



## Sister's family offers thanks

### To the editors:

We have been much in awe of the many wonderful words of love expressed by those who knew our sister as Sister Carol (Fox). Especially those of whom we have known her the longest and the closest, namely, St. Christopher's and the wonderful Sisters of Mercy. There is no way to show our deep gratitude and appreciation for all your caring preparations of the final days of Carol's going home to be with the Lord she served all her days.

Carol was the baby of the nine children born to Violet and William Fox. Her siblings were five sisters and three brothers. In order of birth they are Jeannetta, Herbert, Robert, Violet, Lorraine, Wilma, (Billie) Beverly and William. In reflecting on her childhood we also are reflecting on our own. We were raised in Charlotte for the most part. We had a happy, loving fam-

ily who were blessed with a sense of humor as was most evident in Sister Carol.

As we listened to all the loving tributes that have been given to Carol and the love and reflections you all shared, we were made humbled at the wonder of our baby sister. She was indeed a rare jewel, a very precious gem, that will be greatly missed even though we know she is where she has been preparing to be as she served our Lord all her days. As she kneels at the throne of Jesus this day, we have no doubt He is saying to her, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

We love you, baby sister, and miss you even more. But in our hearts you are still with us.

**The family of Sister Carol Fox**  
EDITORS' NOTE: Sister Fox died April 9. Her obituary appeared in the *Catholic Courier* April 19.

## Cartoon points to remaining work to fully implement call of council

### To the editors:

I really enjoyed the editorial cartoon in the June 7 *Courier*. Since the two characters who were disagreeing on whether Vatican II went too far or not were older, while the character showing no knowledge about Vatican II was younger, I first thought the cartoonist was saying something like, "While two factions of Catholics fight over changes in the Church, the formation of the new generation of Catholics is ignored."

The more I thought about it, however, the more I began to think that there was more to the cartoon than that. I believe that all three characters in the cartoon are really saying "What's Vatican II?" To suggest that Vatican II has been fully implemented, as the characters do by suggesting that Vatican II "went too far" or "didn't go far enough," is to ignore an im-

portant part of Vatican II - the call for lay sanctification.

How many of us really respond to that call? Sure, we all have our moments, but how many of us strive to live a life aligned to the will of God every moment of every day? Isn't that what Jesus meant when he said, "Be perfect as my heavenly Father is perfect?" Isn't this really the heart of Vatican II for everyone and isn't it necessary to try to implement Vatican II fully and universally, before we can see if it's "too far" or "not far enough"? Let's all have a little more faith in the Holy Spirit, eh?

Well your editorial cartoon really got me thinking! Pray for me that I can follow this with some actions, too. Keep up the good work!

**Allan L. Miller**  
Chesham Way  
Fairport

## Sharp tongues, jealousy are root of trouble

### To the editors:

Personally, I understand why hard feelings and problems occur because of sharpness of the tongue. Rudeness and being outspoken are at fault. Jealousy of tentimes is in some individuals because they are not the leader. Therefore, they have the tendency to knock them down by incredible insults. Thinking they are more knowledgeable than the next one, they spurt out unkind words. These occurrences happen at work in so many places daily. Workers are full of stress on account of these dealings.

The Lord has blessed us with certain gifts. If we have natural talents, one should honor them. Others should follow along and work in harmony trying to get along with one another. Some people

think they are better and shun others. What an awful evil thing to do! If a person has given some good things to the poor, that is fine. But remember, love is the most important virtue we can produce.

Being filled with love does not cost us a cent. They say the best things in life are free. If you are guilty of hurting people, you only lower yourself. Reform now, before it is too late. Incidentally, one will not be worthy to enter heaven without love. Some people have never had it and cannot give love. They need prayers. On the other hand they are to be pitied. Jesus taught us to love one another so practice it.

**Anna Groat Burley**  
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