

# 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**

**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 Litzenberger  
llitzenberger@catholiccourier.com

**Interns**  
Jeanne Kidera  
Karin vonVoigtlander

**Business Department**

**Office Manager**  
Mary DiPonzo  
mdiponzo@catholiccourier.com

**Circulation Manager**  
Donna Stubbings  
dstubbings@catholiccourier.com

**Administrative Assistant**  
Arlene S. Gall  
agall@catholiccourier.com

**Graphics Department**

**Graphics Manager**  
Kim Parks  
kparks@catholiccourier.com

**Graphic Artist**  
Linda Jeanne Rivers  
livers@catholiccourier.com

**Advertising Department**

**Account Executives**  
Nancy Baeskens  
nbaeskens@catholiccourier.com

Donald P. Wilson  
dwilson@catholiccourier.com

**Classified Advertising**  
Joyce Kluchko  
jkluchko@catholiccourier.com

**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.

## Critic's idea of Anglican separation is muddled

**To the editors:**

I was intrigued by Joyce Szwagiel's letter (*Catholic Courier*, June 14: "No communion without admission of error") taking Father McBrien to task for not being well informed about the historical origins of the Anglican Church. Unfortunately her criticism seems to rest upon some misconceptions.

Excommunication does not destroy sacramental power. An excommunicated priest can say a valid but illicit Mass, an excommunicated bishop can validly but illicitly confer the sacrament of orders. Rome recognizes this in accepting the validity of ordinations in the Orthodox Churches, the Old Catholic Church, and the Polish National Church. All of these churches started at some point with bishops excommunicated — not in communion with — by Rome.

The issue of the validity of Anglican orders is not based on the excommunication of the English bishops but on their intention in ordaining. Did they intend to ordain priests and bishops as those orders are understood by the Catholic Church? Anglicans today are very similar to Catholics in their Eucharistic theology. Would recognition of papal authority suddenly make their orders valid?

Incidentally, the theology and character of the Anglican Church owes more to Edward VI and Elizabeth I than to Henry VIII who simply wanted to be his own pope.

John J. Dealy  
Creekside Drive  
Rochester

## Ministers appreciate associate's guidance

**To the editors:**

The Stephen Ministry of St. Anne's and St. Gregory's Cluster Community have chosen to honor Dr. Denise Mack for induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame Book of Lives and Legacies in Seneca Falls, New York.

Deni as Pastoral Associate serves as a spiritual leader and a Christ-like role model for Stephen Ministers to emulate. She is also instrumental in referring people to Stephen Ministry that are in need of crisis care.

Deni is an untiring teacher and an excellent uplifting homilist who has taught us to be Christians first. Her joy of being a mother and grandmother allows her to nurture us with encouragement, understanding and love. Her radiance reflects the love of God that she shares with our faith community. She nurtures both of our cluster communities; she visits the sick and the infirm and she fights against the many social injustices of our time.

Deni is a dedicated woman and a loving compassionate friend whose smiling face reflects her beautiful spirit.

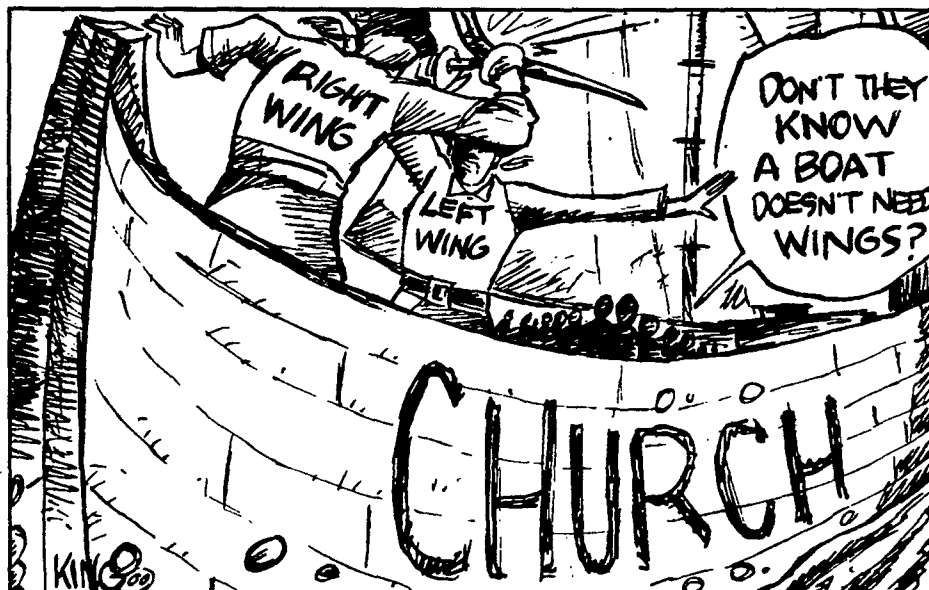
Leonard J. Schmitt  
Darling Lane, Palmyra

## Teen's effort is wonderful

**To the editors:**

The article "Special sitter for special kids" in your (July 5) issue is to be commended! It's wonderful with its positive story of a person filling a special need. Congratulations to Randy Kohlmeier!

Mary Rita Crowe  
East Main Street  
Rochester



## Cemetery lacks key feature

**To the editors:**

I sincerely hope this letter is read by the people in power of our Catholic Diocese.

I have been a one-man crusader on this problem but to no avail. With this letter goes more prayers and hopefully someday a conclusion.

Today's average Catholic funeral — portal to portal — is three or more hours. Along the way when nature calls, there are no public facilities. As I have talked to people about this problem — especially the seniors — you must hear some of the unbelievable things that have happened to some of them.

How long can we keep putting our

heads in the sand on this important problem? It has been suggested that a timeout (be created) promptly after the Mass and before the trip to the cemetery. Ball games have seventh-inning stretches. Stage plays take an intermission. Why not a funeral?

I am not a bettor, but I can give 100 to one odds that I can send this same letter to the *Catholic Courier* five years from now and nothing has changed. As it was then, is now and ever shall be: No public rest rooms at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Arthur Delman  
Greystone Lane  
Rochester

## Writer leaves just one option

**To the editors:**

In his attack on the "just war theory," Mark Scibilia-Carver in his letter of June 28 ("Jesus' view not among perspectives in column") defines war as capital punishment.

Pacifism then, according to Carver, is the only Catholic option. Defense involving deadly force is out which means that we leave ourselves at the mercy of an aggressor.

Frank Moriss, writing in the *Catholic* weekly *The Wanderer*, presents another opinion: "The Catholic position is that the natural law gives to both nations and in-

dividuals the right to use what force is necessary to survive. ..."

"... Pacifism not only softens the will militarily to resist evil, it sometimes softens our capability to think solid thoughts and accept unpleasant realities. Pacifism is a species of utopianism, and, like that chimeric never-never land, threatens our willingness to climb the hard and rising road to human triumph."

Our veterans both living and dead who defended our nation would no doubt say "amen."

Robert Bart  
Ithaca

## 'Delighted' by Revolution article

**To the editors:**

I wish to express my delight in reading the article on "Catholics and the Revolution" (July 5). I believe we need to tell our stories about how Catholics fit into the larger picture of American freedom. My father, Virgil Hoalt, along with his four brothers, fought in World War II. Also, my revolutionary ancestor, Capt. Nicholas Cardinal fought with Col. Rogers Clark.

Capt. Nicholas Cardinal was a farmer from Indiana who raised 10 Catholic children, fought in the Revolution in Virginia, and died at age 69. One of the key Catholic priests in the Indiana Territory during this

time was Father Pierre Gibault. The French, including my ancestors, wanted religious freedom.

As a member of Mary Fellows Penfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and active member of St. Joseph's Church in Penfield, I believe we need to tell our stories about how our families preserved peace and freedom in the past and how peace will continue in the future. Preserving our heritage is the key to our future.

Kathleen Hoalt Reigelman  
Pennicott Circle  
Penfield

## How are parishes able to 'customize' Mass?

**To the editors:**

At last Sunday's Mass, the homilist spoke about the various traditions within our parish cluster. He wasn't just talking about the differences in coffee hours, but the Mass itself. With scaled back mass schedules, it may become necessary to worship in another parish. He requested that each parish's tradition be followed and respected.

I was taken back by the openness of such a topic. One may wonder how such traditions get started. After all, we are the universal church. The rubrics of the Mass are not to be tampered with. How is it

possible that a parish can customize its Mass?

The answer solely lies under the jurisdiction of the pastor. It is not a grass roots effort. The parishioners simply fall in line with the whims and follies of their leader.

I personally enjoy the peace and solace of an orthodox Mass. These so-called traditions often become distractions. As one television commercial once stated, "The best surprise is no surprise."

Stephen J. Fisher  
Honeoye Falls # 6 Rd.  
Honeoye Falls