

# 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.

## Penalty is needed in some cases

### To the editors:

In recent years many Catholic Church leaders have equated taking the innocent life of a child in the womb to taking the life of a cruel and vicious killer — (as in) capital punishment. Some of us find this analogy difficult to accept. There is justification for opposing abortion while supporting the death penalty. Granted — a human life is involved in both instances, but that is the end of the similarities.

In Father Richard McBrien's recent column on this topic, he continued his insidious critique of President George Bush for "his intense courting of the Catholic vote." But he notes that President Bush continues to be out of step with Catholic theology which he states requires Catholics to oppose the death penalty.

Appropriately, the Pope has noted that in civil societies there is a tendency to apply the death penalty in a very limited way. It is unfortunate that the terms "death penalty" and "capital punishment" are used to denote the termination of a criminal's life. Death should not be used as the "penalty" for a crime. The taking of a criminal's life for commission of crimes should be used **ONLY TO PROTECT LIFE** — to protect the lives of those that the criminal will be around. The purpose is not punishment but rather "elimination" — to protect society. If punishment or revenge were the purpose, death by being put to sleep is much too easy!

In my mind the term that more closely represents the just consequence for some cruel criminal acts against society is "termination." This should be used only when the pattern of criminal acts committed by a perpetrator indicate that they would likely cause additional serious harm to others around them if they had the opportunity. Prison guards deserve protection from people in this category. Did Timothy McVeigh meet this criteria? From my limited knowledge, he did not. The satisfaction of revenge by victims' families is short lived.

Sadly, there is a need for terminating the life of some dangerous individuals who have demonstrated ongoing vicious disregard for the lives and rights of others. To oppose the need for a clear way to protect society from these criminals is unrealistic and even immoral, however well intentioned.

Paul W. Cannon  
Sherri Ann Lane, Rochester

## Battle wastes energy

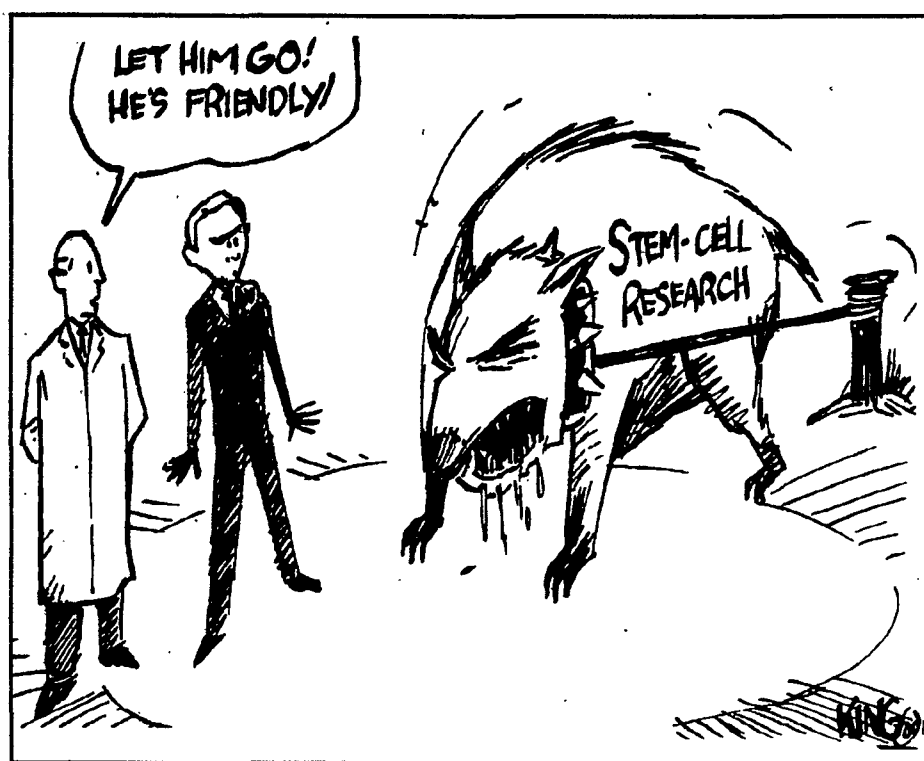
### To the editors:

I wish to express my lack of understanding of Catholics who are spending time, money and energy disputing the location of the Blessed Sacrament in our churches.

We live in a community where there are hungry people to be fed, sick and dying who need care and lonely and isolated people who need friendship and compassion.

If we as Catholics don't know where Jesus Christ is, we are in sad shape!

Irene A. Buonanno  
Manorshire Drive, Fairport



## Cemetery director pleased to announce new facilities

### To the editors:

In response to Arthur Delman's letter (July 12, 2001) and to a very valid and urgent concern of many other persons, I am happy to report that Holy Sepulchre has, among its many other recent enhancements, added necessary facilities — public restrooms.

The recently completed Family Services Center and renovated offices at the Lake Avenue entrance includes two public restrooms inside the outer lobby near the Grave Locator kiosk. These were opened in June of this year and are handicapped accessible. We welcome and encourage all to come and see this wonderful new Family Services Center. There is also a single handicapped-accessible public restroom available at the Operations Center, near the Dewey Avenue entrance, located in the building to the left of the overhead door. That facility has been available since 1996. We plan to show the location of these facilities on the large Cemetery map signs at the entrances.

These restrooms are open to the pub-

lic whenever the Cemetery gates are open. The lack of public sewers along Lake Avenue was the limiting factor in the past. However modern technology has solved the problem and future mausoleums will also include the necessary facilities. Sorry, there are no facilities — or public sewers — on the east side of Lake Avenue.

Mr. Delman said he was not a better so he will incur no financial loss in the bet he referred to in his letter. I wish to thank him however for his letter so that this new addition to our beautiful 130 year Cemetery can get all the attention it deserves. Including this kind of information in our ads in the *Catholic Courier* just did not seem appropriate.

I also wish to apologize on behalf of the Cemetery for the lack of facilities which has been an unsolved issue for management for many years. Hopefully, these additions will finally relieve the stress for all concerned!

Jim Weisbeck  
Executive Director  
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

## Pastor proposes establishment of large, centralized Mass sites

### To the editors:

In light of the recent announcement that three of our younger priests are on leaves of absence and two other priests have been extended health leaves, I am wondering what our Diocesan plan for the future offers us.

How will we as a Diocesan Church deal with a more rapid decline in the availability of priests?

Allow me to offer a suggestion for our Diocesan Planners. The Diocese should offer to three-five clusters of parishes a grant of up to \$1 million to be used to purchase land and build a facility that could be used by that cluster for weekend worship. Thus one priest could preside at a central facility where presently two or more priests cover the smaller communities. The small local church could be maintained for weddings, weekday services and funerals. But several parishes would gather for the one or two weekend

Masses in the cluster.

There would have to be developed the role of Pastoral Administrator in the individual or pairing of parishes, but this is a development that has been well received in other situations. This suggestion would assure that we would have priests for weekend Eucharist for our people.

This suggestion will not solve our challenging situation immediately so I would suggest we get moving on considering the feasibility of it as it will take three to four years to implement.

We can be lulled into thinking that because we have coverage today, our problems are solved. Not true! Let's have some "thinking outside the box." What other suggestions would your readers have?

Father Kevin P. Murphy  
St. Joseph Church  
Penfield

The *Courier* is experiencing a mid-summer letters drought!

Send your views to [letters@catholiccourier.com](mailto:letters@catholiccourier.com) or mail to:

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