

OPINIONS

Catholic Courier

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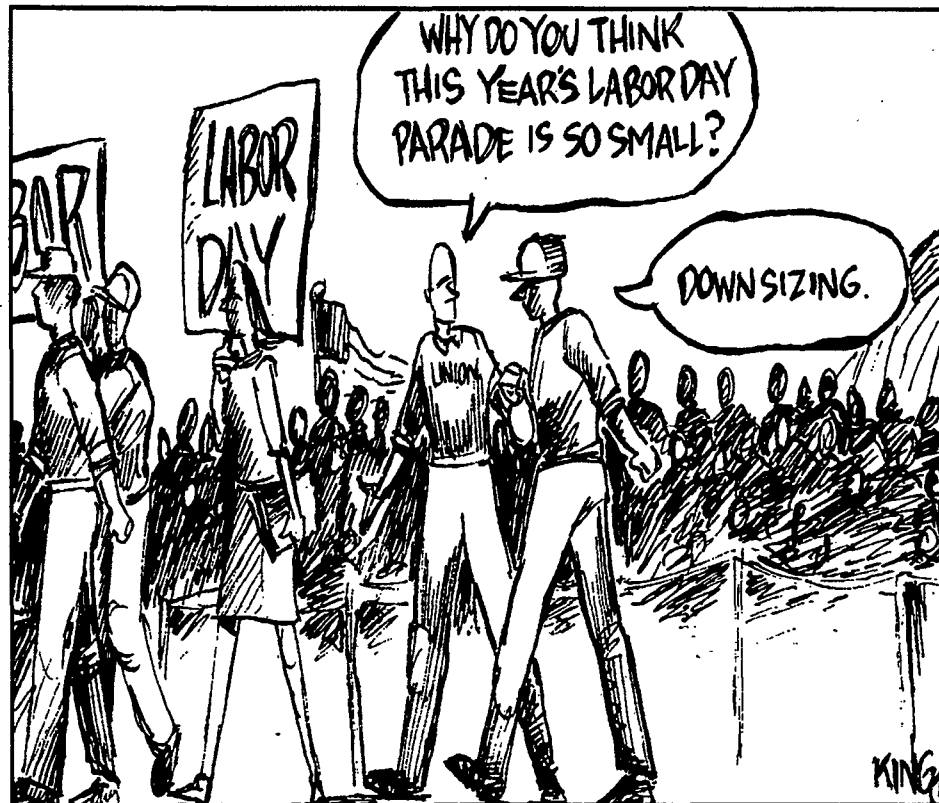
Letters Policy

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.



Diocese has 'obligation' to hear those who pay

To the editors:

A brief search on the Internet confirms what the lead article in the July 19 *Catholic Courier*, "Cathedral renovations abound," tells us. "Renovation" mania of Catholic churches and cathedrals is widespread in the land. The *Courier* article was no doubt intended to help convince readers that the Diocese of Rochester is in-step with other dioceses around the country.

Millions and millions of dollars have been spent and are being spent throughout the United States on "renovation" and meeting "new liturgical norms." The Diocese of Rochester is no exception, with millions having been spent here already and with the prospect that more will be spent in the future. Sacred Heart Cathedral is currently scheduled for "renovation," and another church in the diocese is currently undergoing its second "renovation" at an estimated cost of \$2.0 million.

There is a great consistency across this country in how these various "renovations" are managed. They are promoted, it appears, by a cadre of liturgical consultants, the so-called experts on "new liturgical norms." The first step in the process is to identify structural needs or desired improvements in the infrastructure of a church. A roof is worn; an aged heating system needs to be upgraded; a sound system is inadequate; more convenient locations are needed for toilets; a handicap

ramp is needed. Who can object? And people don't.

"Renovation" promoters are often less than forthcoming about what's going to happen in the second part when liturgical design consultants are called in to help direct the redesign of the interior of a church. It is this part that concerns people, especially people who have belonged to a community for many years and treasure its many familiar objects. Altars, tabernacles, beautiful statues and other art works, many of which were donated as memorials, are all subject to being discarded or rearranged. Even Christ is removed from the crucifix, which is replaced by a cross with no corpus.

An education process is mounted, generally with the help of the consultant. Objections or questions are often dismissed with, "It's required by Vatican II." There is a certain hypocrisy associated with this response, since it is becoming increasingly evident that there is no such mandate for the type of "renovation" that is going on in the United States.

...When a significant number of people, who will be expected to pay for any restoration of Sacred Heart Cathedral, disagree with it, there is an obligation to listen to them.

George E. Perrin

Oakmonte Boulevard, Webster

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter has been edited to comply with our Letters Policy.

Deport all illegals from U.S.

To the editors:

I read with disbelief and dismay an article in the Aug. 9 issue of the *Catholic Courier* entitled "Immigrant advocates hopeful about amnesty, other proposals." Support of these propositions would abnegate, if adopted, the United States' right to enact and promulgate policies supposedly designed to benefit U.S. citizens. Adoption of these recommendations would in fact empower Vincente Fox, president of Mexico, to dictate U.S. immigration policy. He, Fox, in collusion with George Bush would open our borders to the influx of millions of more Mexican(s).

The suggestion that these illegals should be permitted to obtain drivers licenses and be granted in-state tuition among other proposals is ludicrous especially when our own citizens are finding it difficult to finance their educations. U.S. immigration laws must be strengthened.

The U.S. Border Patrol, and other agencies, charged with the protection of our borders ... must be upgraded with the latest technologies to assist them in the protection of our borders. Vincente Fox should not be allowed to dump his problems on the United States. His attempts to influence and control INS policy must be aborted immediately. Let him work out his own country's difficulties without attempting to destroy the U.S.

I personally believe that all illegals should be deported as soon as possible. An open immigration agreement with Mexico will corrupt and decay this country if implemented. Bush and his allies must not be allowed to promulgate these proposals.

Frederick J. Scoville

**East South Street
 Geneseo**

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter has been edited to comply with our Letters Policy.

Program trains future organists

To the editors:

We wish to thank the *Courier* for the June (21) article "Learning organ is all in the touch."

With an increasing shortage of organists to provide music leadership in our churches, the Diocese of Rochester in collaboration with area parishes presents the program Providing Musicians for the Future. This program seeks to identify qualified pianists who wish to develop skills at the organ for church ministry and/or organists already employed by the church who wish to improve their skills.

Many of us are beginning to think about returning to busy fall schedules. Perhaps there are some of you out there looking for a new goal to pursue. The cost is about \$500-\$600 a year for 15 one-hour lessons to be shared in partnership with student parish and diocese. The program hosts an impressive list of qualified instructors located throughout our diocese. If interested, call Ginny Miller, Diocesan associate director of liturgy at 716-328-3210 or 800-388-7177. We hope to hear from you!

**Stephanie Honz, chairperson
 Providing Musicians
 for the Future Committee, and
 pastoral associate
 for Music and Liturgy
 St. Louis Church, Pittsford**

Letter insulted sister

To the editors:

I have read Sister Patricia Schoelles' (columns) for many years and find no reason for D.M. Davies' remarks about her July 19 column ("Column trivialized commandments," Aug. 9). Davies was very insulting toward this nun who, in my opinion, writes a scholarly essay every two weeks about some teaching of the Catholic Church and who does write well and thoughtfully and in a manner which is clear and understandable.

If you feel some of God's representatives treat Catholic doctrine so lightly in the Catholic Church, try attending some Protestant or other churches and then tell us how you feel about the Catholic Church. You will never find the truth outside our Catholic Church as well expressed as it is within the Catholic Church.

**Joseph Beirne
 Baty Street
 Elmira**

Parish's luck is holding

To the editors:

I am writing to express thanks to Bishop Clark for blessing our parish of St. Mary's in Geneseo for the past 19 years by assigning Father Bill Gordinier to us. I was fortunate to serve as Parish Council President during part of his tenure and it was a pleasure to work with him. He is a most caring and compassionate individual and this was demonstrated every day while he was here. There isn't room enough to tell how much he was loved and will be missed.

We were also doubly blessed as Father Gordinier allowed Father Eugene McFarland to spend almost 15 years here in our parish. They made an incredible pair!

Our luck seems to be still with us as now we have been assigned Father Dan McMullin.

**Ted Bondi
 Graywood Center
 Geneseo**