

OPINIONS

Catholic Courier

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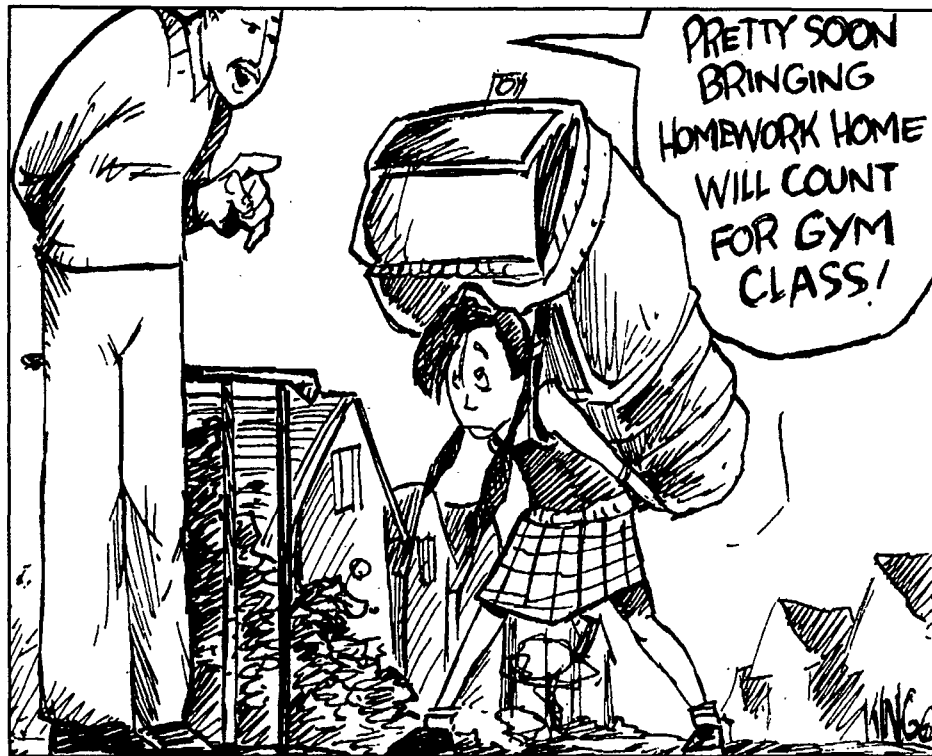
Letters Policy

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.



Children are influenced by 'anything goes' norm

To the editors:

Modesty has been vital to most of us from the beginning of life. Today on TV, magazines, and movies ignore this quality. Women expose their body too often and it is disgusting. Do they think they are so beautiful like this? How about their soul? Don't they realize it is very sinful? Where is their respect for themselves? While we are disapproving of these demonstrations, on the other hand, these young people will copy these acts and feel equal to their actions. With much regret, I feel that anything goes in this era.

Meanwhile some young girls become prostitutes for funding their way through college. Why sell your soul to get ahead? Jobs are available to be had, but no, they prefer big money to carry them for their tuition. Money can be loaned from various banks or other places to complete their education. Consequently, these young folks think they do not need God and never attend church services. As we know, sometimes alcohol and drugs are

their delight. Then when some go to college they think they are supposed to party and have a blast a lot. If a student wants to make something of themselves, they should stress studying their major and try to do well. Whenever they flunk, back to Mom and Dad because of their failure to take advantage of careful and studious procedures.

Parents usually direct their children to be careful when away from home. Their children have to get organized and prepare for a serious time of their life's work for a degree. It will be difficult but worth all the hard work.

Having a fine reputation and a clean soul will add to their getting a fine position. Also one's attitude and knowledge will clear the way for a successful occupation.

Fatal errors have occurred to young folks because of neglect and irresponsibility of their duties.

Anna Groat Burley
Burley Road
Clyde

Jesus, church leave options for countries under attack

To the editors:

In his letter, "Rely on Jesus, not pundits" (Aug. 15), Michael Bezila of Boston referred to Scripture to support his belief in pacifism. Pundits by the way are defined as an "expert or authority" which is what the Catholic weekly newspaper, *The Wanderer*, is.

Regarding pacifism, how would Mr. Bezila explain Luke 12:51-52: "Do you think I have come to establish peace on earth? I assure you, the contrary is true; I have come for division."

Again in Luke 22:36-37: "... and the man without a sword must sell his coat and buy one."

In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* regarding war it states: "... as long as the danger of war persists and there is no inter-

national authority with the necessary competence and power, governments cannot be denied the right of lawful self-defense, once all peace efforts have failed."

This, of course, is much more sensible than a pacifism that would deny protection from a devious and diabolical enemy.

Mother Teresa gave the world good and sound advice when she said that abortion was the primary cause of violence in the world today.

We would do well to follow her advice and consistently defend our most vulnerable brethren as they make their way through the minefields of abortion and embryonic stem cell research.

Robert W. Bart
Ithaca

Heaven's Gate is 'buffer zone' too

To the editor:

Federal Judge Richard Arcara of Buffalo recently found the Rev. Michael Warren and Gerald Crawford both from Rochester guilty of illegally protesting in designated "buffer zones" at local abortion clinics in 1999.

Warren and Crawford were convicted for refusing to leave the buffer zones during anti-abortion protests at Genesee Hospital and at Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse region.

Rebecca Wortman, who works at the clinic of her husband, Dr. Morris Wortman in Brighton, said (to a local newspaper), "I believe in someone's freedom of speech and freedom to protest and I also believe you have to abide by the law, and if you don't you get punished."

One day abortion providers will stand in front of God's buffer zone known as The Gates of Heaven on judgment day and will be held accountable for not abiding by God's law of "Thou shalt not kill."

Dianna Richmond Ives
Simpson Road, Rochester

It's time to think 'outside our parish'

To the editors:

Hurray for Father Kevin Murphy and his suggestion of the establishment of central liturgy centers ("Pastor proposes establishment of large, centralized Mass sites," July 26)! Having read about them in an article in *America* magazine I believe that it would be a great idea for the Rochester diocese. Our priest shortage is critical and many parishes are considering major renovation. Although it is too late for my own parish of St. Louis Church I believe this suggestion warrants further consideration. "Thinking outside the box" can be analogous with "thinking outside our own parish."

Kathleen Blatt
East Avenue, Rochester

Recovering addict has learned a great deal

To the editors:

Maggie's story of recovery is one of courage and concern for others (*Catholic Courier*, Aug. 30, page 12)! She is truly a remarkable young woman. At 18 she has learned more about faith in and gratitude to God than many adults. Bless her!

Diane Knittle
Wilkins Trail, Livonia

Public needs to learn more

To the editors:

Congratulations on your article "Debate will continue on stem cell research" (Aug. 16). The more the public learns about this the better chance there will be to bring about a moral solution to this problem.

Mary Rita Crowe
East Main Street, Rochester

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