

OPINIONS

Catholic Courier

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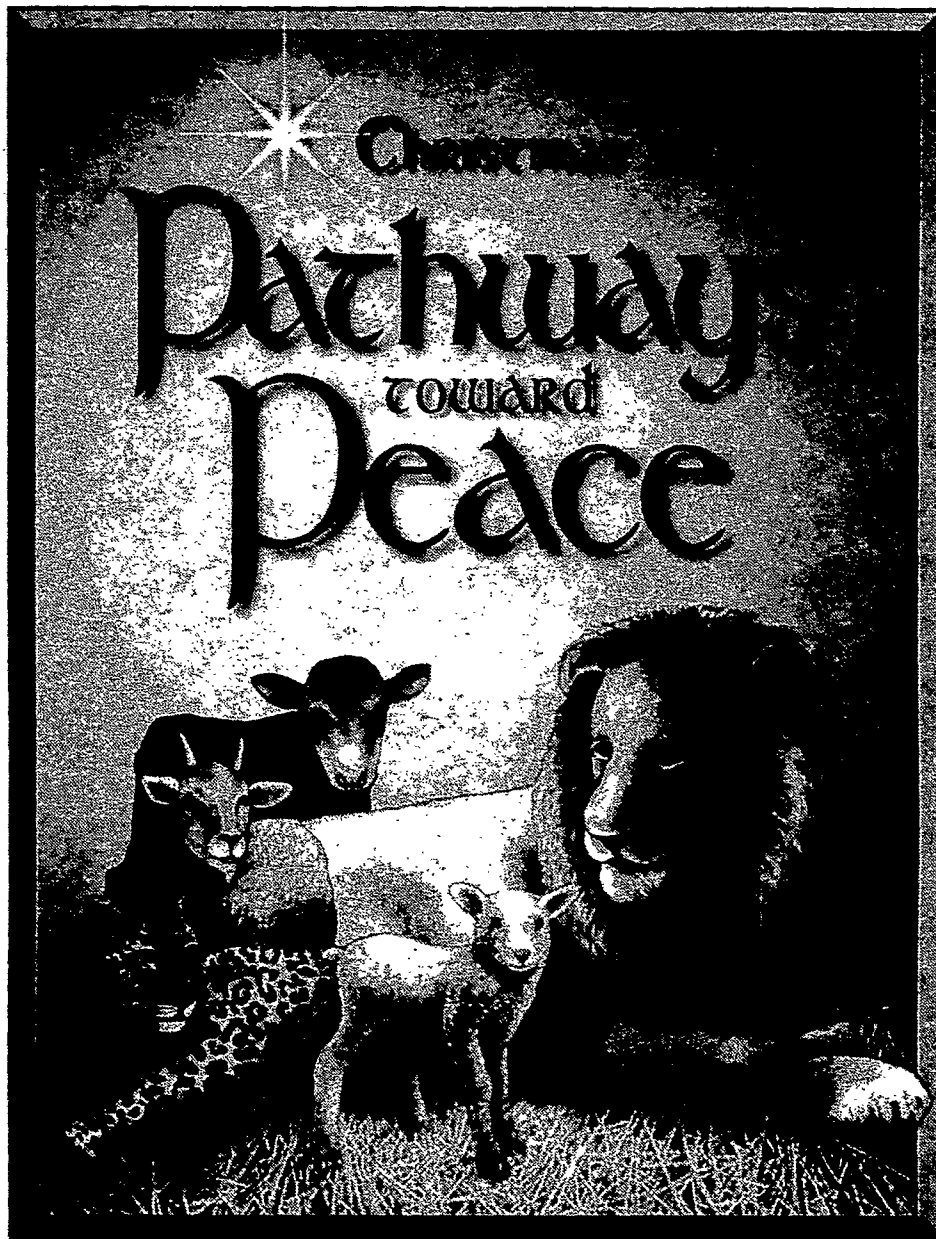
Letters Policy

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.



Where's Christ on cover?

To the editors:

As I picked up the Dec. 20, 2001, edition of the *Catholic Courier*, I was dismayed and insulted to see the temporal, politically correct non-Catholic cover. It was more appropriate for a solicitation from the Zoo Society.

Is the *Courier* so religiously bankrupt that it could not find a Nativity scene to grace its front page? Does the elementary school principal in Canandaigua sit on the editorial board?

Perhaps I'm under some delusion in thinking the Son of God is the Center of

our Religion and that His birth is the reason we celebrate Christmas.

I'll bet the Archdioceses' papers in New York and Boston bore an image of the Christ child for this edition.

James R. Boehler
Lakeshore Road
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: The issue's cover illustration and its theme, "Pathways toward Peace," were both drawn from the scriptural passage that appeared on Page 2. This passage from Isaiah foreshadows the coming of the Messiah.

Teachers touch many lives

To the editors:

In this beautiful season of preparing the way of the Lord and reflecting on all the wonderful gifts He has bestowed on us, pause to thank Him for the precious gift of our Catholic School teachers.

Catholic School teachers are a true emulation of God's love and compassion for us. Never has it been more important for our children to experience the devotion, faith and commitment values which our teachers display.

These dedicated professionals are perfect examples of "What Would Jesus Do." They minister to our children, never waver in their enthusiasm and effectiveness to not only teach, encourage and counsel, but demonstrate true Christian values by example.

Our Catholic School principal is another teacher in our schools. He or she — a virtual committee of one — is all things

to everyone in the Catholic School community: mentor, financial adviser, cheerleader, recruiter, administrator, fundraiser, painter and representative to parishes.

The days and nights of our Catholic School principals are long and challenging: counseling parents and teachers, attending meetings, etc. They exemplify Christ's love for us by their limitless energy and enthusiasm to keep our Catholic Schools alive and vibrant.

So in this season of lights, reflect on the beacon of the Catholic School teacher. Let them know how their sacrifice and dedication has touched and influenced the lives of your family and how proud we are to know them. Thank God for His wonderful gift of Catholic School teachers.

Patrick and Lauren Bates
Adams Road
Webster

To stand or not to stand

To the editors:

Attending Mass the other night, I was troubled to hear the priest request that the congregation remain standing through the Offertory, which of course includes the Consecration. This is not the first time this has happened. People from all over the diocese attend this 5 p.m. Sunday liturgy. Since Church is universal, why should this one church in particular change their format? Has it become "fashionable" to stand at the most sacred part of the Mass?

My husband and I recently returned from a trip to Ireland where the faith is very much alive. For example, one church in Killarney offers five Masses each day. The Irish people are very sympathetic toward the United States over the recent terrorist attacks. Our country was repeatedly mentioned in their prayer intentions. The St. Michael prayer is recited at Mass each day. I think the United States should reinstate this practice as well. We need St. Michael more today than ever before.

Barbara Klos
Majestic Way
Webster

Reader likes friendly voice

To the editors:

Was it Ma Bell that popularized the slogan of "the voice with a smile"?

Be that as it may, you have that voice in your telephone receptionist, whose name, I believe, is Arlene (Gall). Whereas some voices, in greeting the public, are cautious, suspicious, abrupt, or impersonal, hers is friendly and welcoming.

As we begin a new year, please compliment her for a talent well exercised, and thank the patron saint of the diocesan press for your good fortune in having her.

E. Leo McManus
Sail Pointe Circle
Venice, Fla.

EDITORS' NOTE: St. Francis de Sales, we thank you.

Babies are people, not simply things

To the editors:

It's hard to read a column when a word like "thing" is used to describe a human being. It's even harder when the writer is a Catholic priest.

A while back, a priest used the word "thing" to describe a baby. And also "it."

How do we stop abortion when we consider people as inanimate objects?

Michael H. Goth
Rolling Meadow Drive
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Send your opinions to:

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or e-mail to letters@catholiccourier.com

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