

OPINIONS

Catholic Courier

©2002, Rochester Catholic Press Association.
 1150 Buffalo Road
 P.O. Box 24379
 Rochester, NY 14624
 585/529-9530
 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

Photo Intern
 James Stein

Editorial Assistant
 Louis Litzenberger
 llitzenberger@catholiccourier.com

Business Department
Office Manager
 Mary DiPonzio
 mdiponzio@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
 lrivers@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.

Schools are dependent on parents

To the editors:

I'm just another disgruntled Catholic school parent. There are lots of us around these days.

I attended St. Charles School as a kid. Our first child attended St. Charles from preschool until his graduation in 2001 and our second child is a seventh grader there now. I just learned today that he will not graduate from St. Charles. I have worked hard to support St. Charles School for many years and in many ways. I feel betrayed by the very cause I have worked so long and hard to support because this decision was made with token parental input and it was foisted upon the students and their families so abruptly leaving us little time to react for the coming school year.

I understand that the decision to discontinue the seventh and eighth grades at St. Charles, St. John, St. Lawrence and Sacred Heart was not made in haste and that parents were involved in the decision-making process. That's what the letter that I received today from the Catholic School Board of Monroe County said, so it must be true. Yet no one asked for my opinion about any of this. Suddenly, my family has only a short time to react and make decisions for the coming school year.

At this point, my energies will be spent supporting my son and helping him through this time. It seems pointless to spend any energy moaning about the whys and hows of this situation. In time I believe everyone can understand the whys — it is the how that leaves much to be desired. No matter what that letter said, I just found out today, out of a clear blue sky, that my child will not graduate from the school he's attended for preschool and K-7. And I don't know where he will go to school in the fall. The notion that these grades are being "relocated" is nonsense. My son and his classmates are being spread to the four winds and it is up to my husband and myself to find a place for my son to finish his grammar school education.

My investment in our school is high — I currently serve as the chairperson of our School Advisory Committee — and my loyalties run deep. Even given that, I feel it is all in question now. If my loyalty can be tested, that really says something. I'm just not sure what will happen when our youngest child is school age. The future of Catholic education depends on parents, especially on parents like me. It is short-sighted of the board to hand down edicts like this — to me it feels sudden and one-sided — because they put in jeopardy one of Catholic schools' most valuable resources, parents. Doesn't anyone value Catholic education? Catholic education without parents cannot exist. Continuing to treat us without respect in this way is a sure path to alienating even me.

Elizabeth M. Cilano
 Hillbridge Drive
 Rochester



Questions appeal overhead

To the editors:

In response to the article on Giving by Rob Cullivan (Nov. 22, 2001): Indeed giving will be affected not just by the Sept. 11 attack and people's generous giving to that situation and other local requests for the same situation. However, I am convinced that people's giving to all charitable organizations is greatly affected by the enormous administrative costs included in the goals. Those huge costs should be going directly to the needy person.

A for instance, our local Lend-A-Hand Fund's administrative costs are paid for by the local newspaper — *The Press and Sun Bulletin*. All monies collected go directly to the needy. That's how all charities should operate including Thanks Giving Appeal and Catholic Relief Services and the list goes on. TGA's administrative costs astounded me.

Thoughts, opinions, anyone, on how charities operate?

John and Frances Chapura
 Holmes Road, Apalachin

EDITORS' NOTE: Lacking a corporate sponsor like *The Press and Sun Bulletin* to underwrite TGA expenses, the Diocese of Rochester has allocated \$357,500 for campaign costs. Given a goal of \$4,931,000, that comes to less than 8 cents per dollar, with the remaining 92 cents going to diocesan programs and services. Only three of the top 25 area nonprofit agencies (ranked by the percentage of donations going to programs and services) listed in the Rochester Business Journal of Jan. 4 had lower overhead ratios than the TGA. According to the RBJ, "The Council of Better Business Bureaus Foundation recommends choosing charities that spend 30 cents or less per dollar on administrative and fund-raising costs."

McQuaid student asks opponents to check closets for Nike support

To the editors:

I am very concerned with the story about McQuaid and their basketball sponsorship from Nike. As a freshman and first year student at McQuaid this year, I hear many people speaking about this subject in the halls and classrooms. My feeling about this subject is fairly simple. I think it is obvious that McQuaid needed to pay closer attention to the matter at hand and might have gotten caught up in the excitement of the moment, therefore overlooking the sweatshop issue.

I can understand people's arguments about this issue; however, I find it very hard to believe that the people who have made the allegations against McQuaid for "overlooking" this issue have never bought a Nike product themselves. If what they have said is true, isn't the purchase of ANY Nike product therefore an endorsement of their sweatshop labor? Are the

people making these allegations saying that all Catholics should boycott all Nike products? Why is it that only when McQuaid gets sponsored by a major international product that sells millions of products a year, to hundreds of thousands of Catholics, too, do people suddenly jump up and blame McQuaid for endorsing a sweatshop-reliant manufacturer.

Now I am not saying that McQuaid was right or wrong, but I think people should look at their feet or take a closer look at their shoe racks. It would be pretty amazing if they can truthfully say that they have never bought, and therefore endorsed, a Nike product. I am proud of my school's accomplishments in the area of sports and academics and a few pairs of shoes shouldn't stop you from cheering them on, too.

Jesse Malgieri
 Grosvenor Road, Rochester

'Disheartened' by experience with coughing minister

To the editors:

I had a disheartening experience at church yesterday (Dec. 22). A woman sitting in the same row as I coughed frequently during Mass; and it really sounded like a cough due to a cold — not a smoker's cough. I was glad not to be close to her to have to shake hands. But then, she got up to distribute Communion and not only did I have to take the host from

her hand, but she distributed from her supply to the other Eucharistic Ministers.

I dread shaking hands with strangers after they have coughed, sneezed and blown their noses, even into a Kleenex. I have read so much regarding the spreading of germs by hand contact and yesterday was the worst — taking the Communion from her hand and placing it in my mouth. I would like to start a campaign to

do away with shaking hands — a nice hello with a smile and "Peace be with you" to me has just as much meaning. At the very least can't the Eucharistic Ministers wash their hands before distributing Communion? It would take but a minute to go back of the altar and do this. At least the priest washes his hands.

Mary Wallman
 Surrey Hill Way, Rochester

Send all letters to: *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624-0379