

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, NY 14624. Please include your full name, phone number and complete address for purposes of verification.



Calls 'treatment' failure

To the editor:

Christ's earliest believers created communities to pray, teach and share. My parents helped to create a church community that did those same things. This community and others in this area chose to strengthen the teaching of its children by creating Catholic schools.

For the past 20 years I have seen that same strong tradition be hacked to pieces. The Diocese would have us believe that the constant break up of Catholics schools would help to preserve it. All the choices that have been made have had the opposite effect. The closing of City of Rochester Catholic schools has weakened the parishes and the communities that surround them. The Diocese's support of the separation of suburban parishes and their Catholic schools has created a wall between two members of the same community. I can't tell you the number of pastors that have told me that they do not get in-

involved in school functions or policy. The pastor's actions speak volumes to their parishioners.

Please allow me this analogy: Catholic schools are a sick patient. The medical treatment that it has received has not worked to revive it. The patient has been allowed to steadily worsen. The Bishop and his staff have continued with the same treatment of just cutting off pieces of the system. With every piece you remove you weaken the whole system.

My disappointment in the changes in the Greece Catholic schools is not based on the changes it will mean for my children and me. The disappointment comes from the changes made by the Diocese that has taken a once vibrant ministry of the Catholic Church and has made it a "terminal patient."

Mary Jane Schwan
Stone Fence Road
Rochester

Wants equity in coverage

To the editor:

When I read the *Catholic Courier* of January 17, 2002, my heart cried. On the front page there was a reference that it was "National Vocations Awareness Week."

Upon reading the newspaper, I was saddened to see that the only ones under that umbrella were the "Diocesan Priesthood" and the "Diaconate Rites."

There was no article dedicated to the Vowed Religious serving in our diocese, both male and female. There was also no article supporting the thousands of men and women who serve with us in various Church Ministries. I realize that they were mentioned briefly in Bishop Clark's (col-

umn).

I sense an interest in the Vowed Religious Life among women of various ages from what I am experiencing in the Ithaca area. Students in college as well as mothers and grandmothers are now considering that lifestyle.

I hope in the future, that there is an equality of representation if there is an occasion to promote vocations. We are the Church. Validation of our ministries is important for all under the umbrella, celebrating National Vocation Awareness Week.

Sister Edna Slyck, RSM
Lake Street, Ithaca

Archivist seeks priests' relations

To the editor:

A Pittsburgh journalist who is gathering data for a biography of Msgr. Walter Carroll has asked assistance from the Archives of the Diocese of Rochester. Msgr. Carroll (1908-1950) was a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh on loan to the Vatican State Department during World War II. As a papal diplomat he played an important role as liaison between Pope Pius XII and the American Armed Forces in Europe.

Msgr. Carroll had two Rochester uncles,

Thomas E. Carroll and John G. Carroll. Presumably these gentlemen are now deceased, but my correspondent needs to contact any living members of their families. Can any reader of the *Courier* help me to put her in touch with members of these two Rochester Carroll families, whether they still live here or have moved elsewhere? Please call me at 585-338-1602. Thank you.

Rev. Robert F. McNamara, Archivist,
Diocese of Rochester

Appreciated coverage of youth committee

To the editor:

I was very pleased to see the recent article on the Diocesan Youth Committee (Jan. 17). The dedication these youths make when they join this committee is noteworthy. Anyone who has a young adult in their home knows of the many directions they are torn: school work, activities, sports, church, Youth Group and jobs just to name

a few. Young adults should be encouraged to be involved in their commitment to God via service to humanity. Please continue to give coverage to the youth activities whenever possible. The youths of today are the adults of tomorrow.

Elizabeth Dobbertin Larzelere
Kuney Road
Romulus

Keep the 'peace,' but nix handshake

To the editor:

I applaud Mary Wallman's letter (*Catholic Courier*, Jan. 17; "Disheartened" by experience with coughing minister) complaining about hand holding, shaking hands and she's absolutely right in pointing out the person distributing the Host after coughing, sneezing and nose-blowing.

I object to holding hands, other than my husband; shaking hands; drinking from the wine cup — who drinks from someone else's cup and glass even in your family?

May I suggest:

1. Eliminate all three of the above, excepting hubby.

2. Place small tables with the Host and wine cup(s) for those who partake — then everyone can take the Host in their own hand.

Years ago — probably in the 1960s — Father Daniel Torney introduced us to the "Sign of Peace" one Sunday morning. He told us to turn to the person next to us and simply say "Peace." I thought it nice then and I still do.

Our Mass is truly a beautiful time to spend and pray. Why not return to the simple, dignified manner in of being the greeting and the peace and the sign of peace?

Mrs. Joseph A. Smith
Lake Street, Ithaca, N.Y.

Dreads handshake

To the editor:

First off, just off to Mary Wallman of Surrey Hill Way for her letter.

I, too, dread shaking hands with those parishioners who have sneezed, coughed or blown their noses in church.

At times I spend more time dreading the "handshake" of peace than I pay attention to Mass. Also, I saw one Eucharistic Minister blow his nose and then go up to distribute Holy Communion. Needless to say, I declined to receive the Holy Eucharist.

I am a nurse, and the cardinal rule in any hospital is handwashing!! It's our first line of defense against the spread of germs.

Can't Bishop Clark issue some kind of statement that says it's all right to acknowledge your neighbor in church verbally? With the flu and cold season upon us, it seems the sensible thing to do.

My wish for Christ's Peace is no less sincere when spoken than it is with a handshake! God bless you.

Roxanne Young
List Avenue, Rochester

Use common sense

To the editor:

I was sorry to read about Mary Wallman's experience regarding the Eucharistic Minister who was coughing due to a cold and then giving out Holy Communion.

I know being a Eucharistic Minister in my parish, Holy Spirit, the ministers always wash their hands before and after giving out Holy Communion. We do this as a sign of respect for Our Lord. If a person has a cold, they should use their common sense and refrain from giving out Holy Communion.

As for shaking hands or holding hands, I have long maintained and disagreed with this practice.

Here again, each parish has their own way of doing things.

Marie J. Kowalczyk
Carmine Circle
Penfield