

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.

Should rule apply to all in the state?

To the editor:

I've been very interested in the way Catholicism has been attacked on many fronts. Now there is a bill before Albany that would decide when a business is Catholic. Maureen Kramlich, guest contributor in the Feb. 21 *Catholic Courier*, states the ACLU definition is based on the percentage of employed people's religious background. If this is true then let's take this to extreme: All public and private business and institutions should report yearly the percentage of their employees' religious backgrounds. If the large percentage of employees is Roman Catholic, then the establishment does not provide any services that are against Catholic doctrine. Also, if a business has a large number of Jewish personnel, then all males no matter what their religious background can now be afforded a circumcision. Or maybe every male should be forced to have the procedure. And of course, we have heard about religions in Africa and the Mideast that support clitoral mutilation. If a business has the majority of employees who believe in that practice, should the business support it in their medical coverage? Also, can you imagine the state requiring all businesses reporting this information and enforcing it? What is the percentage cut-off going to be - 51 percent/49 percent or 60 percent/40 percent? Albany still can't get the budget in on time, yet they review ridiculous bills such as this.

On another front, why haven't the priests used Mass time to talk about this bill? We as Catholics need to fight back. I'm not expecting the clergy to do this, but they must fuel the fire. We need to be more assertive. We are much too nice when we must show some wrath. We are not only supporting our right to manage a Catholic business, but our right to practice our religion in a free society.

Chuck Ciralo
Park Circle Drive
Fairport

Document says words are there

To the editor:

What a blessing is the Internet! The Guidelines for admission to the Eucharist between the Chaldean Church and the Assyrian Church of the East are available through search engines under Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The document is a short and fascinating lesson on the ancient and current history of the Catholic Church. We don't have to rely on Father McBrien's bias (column, Feb. 28).

The guidelines indicate that the magic words of consecration must be present for validity, "the Catholic Church considers the words of the Eucharistic Institution a constitutive and therefore indispensable part of the Anaphora or Eucharistic Prayer" and, that they are indeed present: "So the words of the Institution are not absent in the Anaphora of Addai and Mari, but explicitly mentioned in a dispersed way, from the beginning to the end, in the most important passages of the Anaphora." One could argue with the Council about whether the words are present or not. However, in no way can Father McBrien call this a bit of a reach, while, at the same time, proclaiming there are no magic words.

Robert E. Drury
Pre-Emption Road
Geneva



Consider words' Latin root

To the editor:

First, I wish to emphasize my respect for our deacons who are specially ordained to the service of the Catholic Church's ministry. I hope they will take no offense at what I have to say concerning a recent discourse by one of them at my parish Mass.

In commenting on a Gospel of St. Matthew, the deacon said that Jesus, in speaking to his disciples, encouraged them to be "fishers of MEN and WOMEN." Not so. He directed them to be "fishers of MEN."

Am I creating a tempest in a teapot? Not really. We do NOT have a right to change the divinely-inspired words of the original Hebrew and Greek to make them more palatable to our politically-correct and feminine-chastened ears.

As one who has struggled with the derivation of words for a lifetime, I find the disposal of time-tested liturgies in lieu of "user-friendly" styles an abomination. Let

us remind ourselves that the word "man" in the meaning of St. Matthew's Gospel, has been - and still is - a generic term for human beings and when used as such carries no sense of masculinity.

The Latin "homo" is a human being, as distinct from "ver," a male person. In philosophical terms "man" is a rational animal, and collectively is the human species or the human race. English does not possess a gender-inclusive personal pronoun in the singular. To "translate" a text so that it says what you want it to say is dishonest and intellectually irresponsible. We should not make verbal or conceptual idols to suit individual tastes.

In short, we should not allow trivial feminism to make the Catholic Church look silly. We must remember that change is not reform, any more than noise is music.

George Murphy
Washburn Park
Rochester

Be informed on bishops' teaching

To the editor:

In response to Mr. John Greisberger's letter on the subject of kneeling vs. standing, "Complaint is a 'tempest in a thimble'" in the Jan. 31 issue, the rule as cited in "Mass Confusion" by James Akin (p. 205) is: "At its meeting in November, 1969, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops voted that in general, the directives of the Roman Missal concerning the posture of the congregation at Mass should be left unchanged, but that no. 21 of the General Instruction should be adapted so that the people kneel beginning after the singing or recitation of the *Sanctus* until after the Amen of the Eucharistic Prayer, that is, before the Lord's prayer" (AGI 21). AGI is the "Ap-

pendix to the General Instruction for the Dioceses of the U.S."

This issue is clearly a matter of being informed as to the teaching of the American bishops and then being obedient to it. Nothing else.

Also, thank you for the wonderful article about Bishop Wilton D. Gregory's election as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (Feb. 21). I've heard it said that Sunday is the most segregated day of the week. If that is in any way and for any reason true, his election clearly states to the world that we are trying to change that perception; that we are not only Catholic, but catholic.

Robert F. Carson
Walker-Lake Ontario Road, Hilton

Don't make progeny emigrate for Mass

To the editor:

I am increasingly concerned about the recent media stories regarding the Catholic Church. Within a matter of months we hear a cardinal in Boston refusing to deal with pedophile priests, the Pope telling lawyers to stop handling divorce cases, and moral opinions clothed as scientific fact regarding stem cell research.

Quite frankly, the Catholic Church in America is beginning to sound like a bad joke. I have been a Catholic for 56 years; I attended Catholic grammar school, high school and college; I'm an officer of the Holy Name Society. I think I'm a good Catholic.

Yet, I'm concerned that the Catholic Church in the U.S. has a bleak future un-

less we change our ways. Specifically I believe:

1. The Pope should fire the Boston cardinal who hasn't shown qualities of responsible leadership.

2. Rather than using the political process in the U.S. to adopt laws favorable to the Catholic position on abortion and stem cell research, the clergy should be working on changing the attitudes of American Catholics.

3. Let priests marry.

If the American cardinals and bishops don't do something soon, my great grandchildren will have to move to Mexico to go to church.

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