

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.

Show offers 'world over' information

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Father John J. Philipps' letter a few weeks back (Feb. 14). I do not have to surf the TV for every Friday I look forward to watching "The World Over Live."

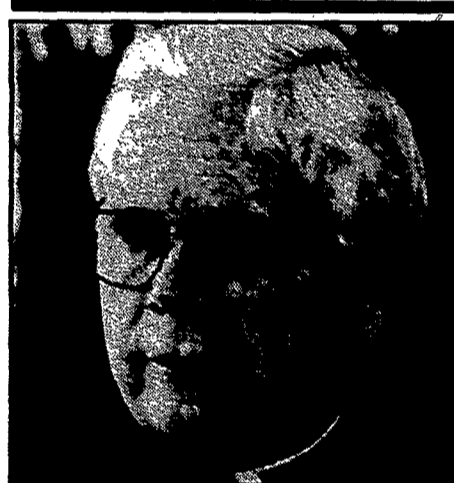
As a lifelong Catholic I am very interested in just what is going on in our church and especially with our dear leader Pope John Paul II. They totally cover all the Pope's travels and any news which comes out of the Vatican and so very much more.

We sure don't get any news from anywhere else about what is going on. We as Catholics are the church; how can we defend our faith if we do not know what is going on.

I for one am grateful for this show. I have learned a lot about my faith, and it is not a debate format so any guest like any other show is naturally going to give his own views on a particular subject.

I am though very happy that one of our priests is watching and might be able to pass along to his people some of what we as Catholics should know. If more Catholics knew what was going on, they might not be so afraid to step forward to defend our faith.

Kathy Germonto
Ideson Road
Honeoye Falls



Cardinal Bernard Law

Don't discount overwhelming virtue of clergy

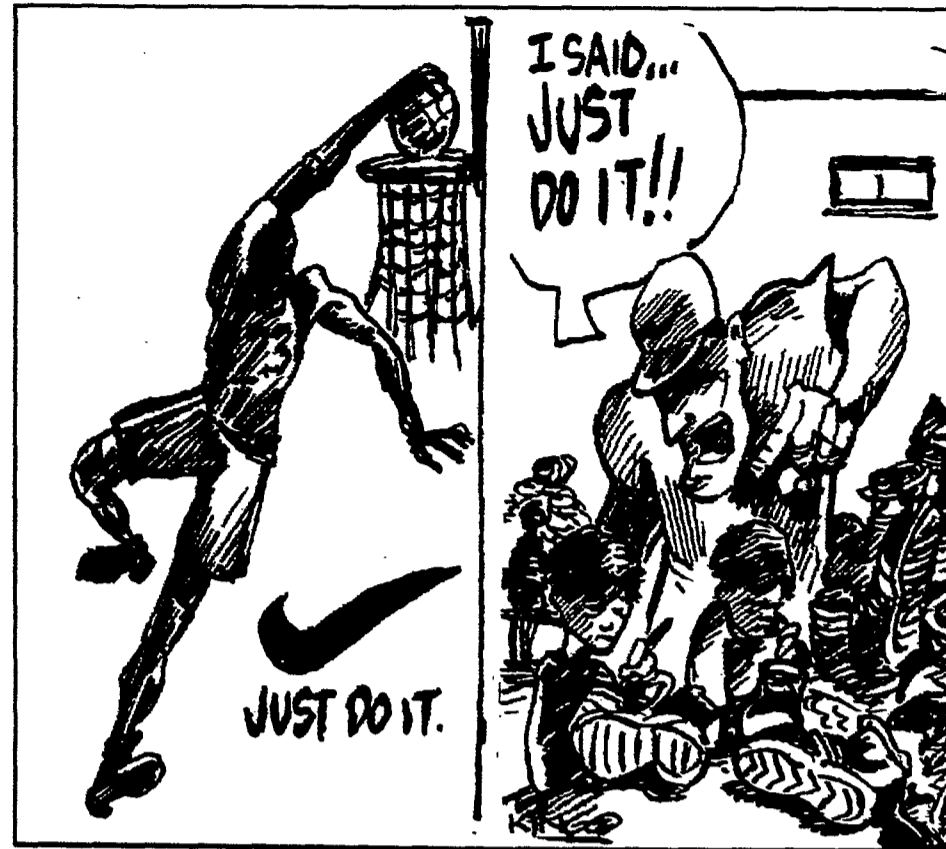
To the editor:

My heart goes out to the Boston Diocese as they struggle with the painful tragedy (of pedophilia committed by priests). It is my hope that we can all learn something from this situation. Just as one should not give a chronic alcoholic a job in a bar, priests with a history of pedophilia should not be assigned to parish ministry.

Cardinal Law, a good man by all accounts, erred in this situation by not defrocking his priest who has ruined the lives of dozens. Yet, Cardinal Law may have secured redemption through his very sincere and sorrowful apology to the faithful.

As the news out of Boston intensifies, let us pray that common sense prevails. While pedophiles certainly need to be removed from their ministries and punished, we also need to recognize that the vast majority of our clergy our decent people, giving multitudes of hours for the well-being of others.

Raymond A. Grosswirth
Academy Drive
Rochester



Find peace through Prince

To the editor:

I agree with Sister Schoelles' March 7 (column) about change and forgiveness needed to achieve peace in our lives. Yes, peace can come when both parties change their thinking to: not who is right or wrong, not who is to blame and not to take revenge.

Taking it one step further, however, very often BOTH PARTIES are not open to this line of thinking!

While our faith and mind-set may be "I have forgiven, changed my thinking and will not show revenge," what about future aggression?

So I ask: what if only one side changes and forgives? How can peace still be achieved?

When Jesus instructed us to forgive 70 times seven and then forgave us on the cross, it became the ultimate challenge! So, while united parties working toward peace may be our hope, our faith calls us to forgive always and pray for those who do us wrong.

Forgiving from our hearts, turning to the Prince of Peace is the definitive way we can achieve peace in our lives!

Donna Carson
Valley Brook Circle, Rochester

Teen writer gets anonymous gift

To the editor:

Shortly after my letter was printed in the February 14 issue of the *Catholic Courier*, I received a greeting card from an anonymous reader. The person wrote me an uplifting and encouraging note and enclosed both my letter and a generous gift. The sender signed the card with initials only and left me no return address.

This kind gesture not only brightened my day, but provided a pleasant reminder of the teachings of Christ. During this pe-

riod of Lent, a time of sacrifice, preparation and learning, I found it very beneficial to be reminded of our callings to be humble, charitable and outreaching. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to S.M.B. for your motivating words and benevolent gift, and I hope that people everywhere may be inspired by similar examples as we proceed with our Lenten journey and our journey toward Christ.

Peter Osgood
Walnut Street
Penn Yan

What became of revision to sign of peace?

To the editor:

Nearly two years ago an article appeared in the *Catholic Courier* advising readers that the Vatican had issued orders to change the "peace greeting" during Mass. The directive stated that the greeting was never intended to interrupt Mass at such an important time, i.e. when the consecrated Host is on the altar. There were other directives involved, some of which I don't recall now.

Most of us were delighted to know that soon we'd be free of the germ spreading

practice and the interruption.

What has happened to that order?

Barbara J. Taylert
Westgate at the Harbor
Rochester

EDITOR'S NOTE: The revised version of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, issued July 28, 2000, did not call for the elimination of the sign of peace.

Instead, it instructed that to avoid disrupting Mass, the priest should not leave the sanctuary to exchange the sign of peace with the faithful.

Send your opinions to:

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