

# 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.

Effective Sept. 15, letters must not exceed 350 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.

## Seminary's beauty still brings joy

### To the editor:

Do you remember when St. Bernard's on Lake Avenue was the seminary? I remember being fascinated by the beautiful building and grounds as we drove by on the way to visit a favorite aunt and uncle in Charlotte. For some reason I was drawn to that property, and, as an adult, I have had the pleasure of working there for the past five years at a very special adult day program called Park Place at St. Bernard's, operated by Unity Health System. This unique program was designed to meet the needs of people with dementia and their caregivers.

Since the program opened in 1997, we have had a strong Catholic attendance with many of our participants bringing their rosaries with them. As a result, one of our rituals at Park Place has been to say the rosary every day after lunch. Although some of our participants may not be able to tell you what day it is, they can still recite a comforting and familiar prayer like the Hail Mary or the Our Father. This is a quiet and soothing time for both participants and staff who have already participated in many successful activities throughout the day. Some studies suggest that the slow rhythmic breathing that is associated with the repetition of prayer during the rosary is not only good for us spiritually, but physically as well, synchronizing our heart-lung rhythms.

I remain drawn to the beauty of St. Bernard's and feel blessed to be a part of the participants' lives.

Mary Walker, Manager  
Park Place at St. Bernard's  
Adult Day Program  
Lake Avenue, Rochester

## Seeks reunion with friends of relative in Rochester area

### To the editor:

Sister Rose Agnes Sereno, SSJ, was a family member whom I never got to know. She was born Benedetta "Bertha" Cirino to Giuseppe and Seraphina (Ferraro) Cirino. Bertha had four older brothers and two younger sisters. They lived on Scio Street in 1920. Her brothers were Filippo, Giuseppe, Angelo and Samuel. Her younger sisters were Anna (Mrs. William Swanson) and Maria (Mrs. Russell Oldfield). Bertha's mother died in May 1920 when Bertha was only seven years old. I have been told it was not uncommon during that time for a "half orphaned" child to be placed in an orphanage. Bertha grew up in St. Patrick's Orphanage. I am guessing that Angelo, Samuel, Anna and Maria were also placed in the orphanage. Sister Rose Agnes (Bertha) joined the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1931 and made her final profession in 1936. She worked at Nazareth Infirmary, St. Ann's Home, housekeeper at St. Stephen's Parish in Geneva and St. Joseph's Villa. Sister Rose Agnes was very close to Dr. & Mrs. George Guerinot of Rochester before entering the congregation. She lived with them and helped with housework and child care. She remained close to the Guerinots until her death in December 1961. She was also close friends with Elizabeth and Rose Matragrano of Bedford Hill, N.Y. I am hoping to locate family of Sister Rose's brothers and sisters and possibly the Guerinot children. Anyone with information can write to me directly.

Diane Larsen  
248 West 7th Street  
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801



File photo

Bensalem, Pa., teenagers Megan McCandless (left) and Kerianne Kuliga rested July 22 after a day of traveling from Philadelphia to Avon's St. Agnes School on their way to Toronto for World Youth Day.

## Avon's WYD guests grateful

### To the editor:

Thank you for your article about our youth group's pilgrimage to World Youth Day. After an exciting and exhausting week, we returned to St. Agnes to a delicious lunch, a photograph collage of our initial arrival in the church vestibule and copies of the "On the Move" article running "live" on line on several of the school's computers.

These small, yet thoughtful, touches of hospitality made a great impression on our youth group — as well as on the adults. We are deeply grateful to Mike Drexler and the young people at St. Agnes who made our brief stay in "down-town Avon" so special. God bless.

Father Charles Zlock, School Minister  
St. Maria Goretti High School  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## Glad diocese will promote march

### To the editor:

It is certainly encouraging to learn that the Diocese of Rochester has decided to make abortion a priority issue during the coming year (*Catholic Courier*, Aug. 1: "Diocese calls for faithful to work against abortion"). Too bad it has taken almost 30 years for that to happen! Warnings of a "slippery slope" went unheeded and now we are faced with the very problems that were predicted: partial-birth abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and now, cloning. If only every diocese in the U.S. had joined the fight in the

early stages, we would have been able to eliminate abortion and its related evils long ago. However, "better late than never!"

The good news is that the Rochester Diocese will join us on the annual March for Life in 2003, along with thousands of others, including entire high schools and hundreds of priests and seminarians. The experience is awesome! Welcome Aboard!!

Mary Lou Reifsnnyder  
Mountain Rise  
Fairport

## Prayer 'crusade' focuses on priests

### To the editor:

On the four Sundays of May and the five Sundays of June, a novena of prayer for the holiness of our priests and an increase in vocations to the priesthood was offered.

Because the intention of these prayers is so great, some of the people who participated did not want to stop, so it has been decided to continue this effort as an ongoing Crusade of Prayer for this important and holy cause.

We will be gathering every Sunday at 4 p.m. at St. Cecilia's Church for this purpose.

We will be praying the rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and some other appropriate prayers, with intermittent quiet times for personal reflection.

Please consider joining this group of dedicated lay people who want to storm heaven for grace and mercy at this time of great need. Prayer is our answer. And perhaps, maybe a little sacrifice? Help us support our priests with our faith, our love and our prayers.

Dorothy Florack  
Brownstone Lane  
Rochester

## Pastors are still the center of life in church

### To the editor:

We, the laity, are being invited more and more to have our say in the administration of Church matters. Parish councils are on deck, armed with sincere proposals. Among them will be highly educated professionals respected in their fields.

But the key member will be the pastor. Some members will know more, be even holier than the pastor, who has a solemn duty to listen to their earnest suggestions. He, however, is the one sacramentally

commissioned to carry on the life of Christ and His Church among us. He has sacrificed his own life to do so.

Let us remember that the Church was formally instituted where the Holy Spirit, the soul of the Mystical Body of Christ, entered on Pentecost Sunday to infuse the souls of the Apostles with divine light.

Come, Holy Spirit, guide all our ways for the perpetuation of the one true Church of Christ.

Mary Locke  
South Clinton Avenue, Rochester

Send your views to [letters@catholiccourier.com](mailto:letters@catholiccourier.com)  
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