



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

More Letters

Christian, came home from his service in World War II, he declared emphatically that war solves nothing. Sadly, this seems to be a lesson that each generation must learn anew.

Sheryl B. Zabel
Lyndon Road, Fairport

Sees positive side of war

To the editor:

In "Along the Way" of March 6, Bishop Clark gave his version of the reasons for war with Iraq, ascribing to the U.S. only self-serving, selfish motives. The column was far from objective and mentioned none of the evils of the Iraqi regime nor the 17 U.N. resolutions Iraq has ignored.

Did the Bishop criticize President Clinton's air strikes against Bosnia/Kosovo considering that:

- The U.S. was in no imminent danger and had not been attacked.
- The U.N. did not approve our actions.
- The U.S. attacked a sovereign nation without a declaration of war.
- There was a stated desire for a regime change. This eventually resulted from fair and honest elections, which is inconceivable in present-day Iraq.
- The Chinese Embassy was damaged, with casual-

ties, provoking an international incident.

If the Bishop did not criticize these actions of a liberal Democratic President, then it appears that there is a double standard at work when he criticizes possible actions by a conservative Republican President. If Bishop Clark did criticize President Clinton's actions, I shall apologize for my comments after I read the column.

The truth about support for the U.S./UK:

- A U.S. poll released March 10, 2003 shows this about a war with Iraq:

APPROVAL is now 71 percent, up from 67 percent

DISAPPROVAL is now 20 percent, down from 25 percent. The Bishop is not in agreement with the realistic U.S. public.

- U.S./UK are supported by more than 19 European countries and about 30 worldwide. Enthusiastic support comes from those Eastern European countries which only recently escaped totalitarian rule by Russia.

- France and Germany are heavy trading partners of Iraq, and are hardly impartial.

God bless the U.S./UK, our allies, and our military forces. God is on our side and we will prevail in this good effort to secure peace.

Ben Reed
Silver Birch Circle
Fairport

CLE opposes all violence

To the editor:

In his February 27 column, "Pro-life, pro-choice find common ground," (Father) Richard McBrien makes the astounding claim that "the consistent-life-ethic approach" challenges "the absolutists on both sides."

To the contrary, the absolute contrary. The consistent-life-ethic is not some watered down meaningless ethic that sort of opposes war, abortion, capital punishment and poverty. It absolutely opposes these violence. Jesus' death on the cross is pretty unconditional, not gray. His love for us is absolute and we are asked through the consistent-life ethic to love absolutely the unborn, our en-

emies, the poor.

McBrien's "Essays in Theology" makes one wonder if this is Christianity or some other religion he espouses.

Carol Crossed
Clover Street
Rochester

Shocked by discussion of statistics

To the editor:

Today (March 13) I was listening to a short debate on CNN regarding the upcoming vote in Congress on passing a bill banning partial birth abortions.

My friends, I thought I had heard it ALL as far as excuses from the pro-choice side of the issue for murdering unborn children; but to my utter shock, I heard Donna Brazille, former Gore Democratic campaign manager say on national TV that partial birth abortion is a MANUFACTURED ISSUE! She went on to cite that less than 1 percent of abortions fall in this category.

My Lord Have Mercy. Is the deliberate killing of a live, full term PERSON subject to percentages??!! All Democrats, indeed, all of us should send our written protest to the DNC, regarding her comment, no matter which party we support. Come on CATHOLICS, we are the members of CHRIST's church and we are also the ones who LEAST STAND UP for our magnificent faith. Let 'em hear it about this deplorable comment!

Judy Maldonado
Hale Haven Drive
Hilton

VOTF using scandal to force change

To the editor:

I feel constrained to write in light of your article "Bishop's official, reform leader meet" (*Catholic Courier*, Feb. 27). I am disappointed that a learned and experienced woman like Kathleen McChesney, the newly appointed director of the US bishop's office for child and youth protection, aligned herself with the heterodoxy group Voice of the Faithful, recommending that bishops allow VOTF groups to meet in churches of their dioceses. The good news is that she has absolutely no authority to make her recommendation a reality. Only bishops can do that and many bishops have seen through VOTF and want no part of it.

VOTF and Call to Action are peas in a pod so to speak. They both seek structural change in the church in order to challenge traditional and authentic church teaching on ordinations, abortion and sexual morality.

VOTF is a wolf in sheep's clothing using the sexual scandal to further their own agenda. Doesn't McChesney recognize this? Instead she asked her audience to keep the issue alive. It begs the question what happened to forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against? In all the turmoil we seem to forget that we are a forgiving church and it is time to forgive and stop exacting our pound of flesh.

Oswald Hezekiah
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Letters Policy

The *Catholic Courier* provides space for readers 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 to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters based on likely reader interest, timeliness, and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions expressed.

Letters must not exceed 300 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.

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