



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

MORE LETTERS

then I say: hack away.

But if you're going to claim that Our Lord was a pacifist, and that non-violence is the very essence of His message, it seems mighty convenient to focus on only those *forms* of violence to which one is not personally tempted.

By the way, Joan of Arc wasn't a pacifist either. She was, however, a saint.

Michael L. DeLorme
Fairbanks, Alaska

Sees pattern in positions

To the editor:

It is no surprise that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops was against Operation Iraqi Freedom. Very consistently, NCCB has been against U.S. actions for the last 50 years. History has proven them

wrong most of the time.

NCCB, many Protestant church groups, the Communist Party USA, and the Americans for Democratic Action, among others, actively sought to develop false moral grounds to restrain US ability to defend itself and its allies. Luckily for the world, these efforts were obviously illogical and immoral, and the US stood strong against them.

A summary of the actions of NCCB et al:

- They and the USSR argued for a "nuclear freeze" which would have made U.S. forces inferior in both numbers and technology to those of the USSR.

- They and the USSR embraced "unilateral disarmament" even though there was no way to monitor the USSR.

- They and the USSR espoused a policy of "no first use" of nuclear weapons, even though only the "Nu-

clear Umbrella" of U.S. forces in Europe stopped the USSR from conquering Eastern Europe.

- They and the USSR resisted U.S. plans to place nuclear-tipped medium-range missiles in Europe to threaten the Russian homeland just at the USSR's missiles already in place threatened all of Europe.

- They and Russia recently opposed the U.S. Anti-Bal-

listic Missile System, even though the treaty with the USSR — which no longer exists — was legally abrogated by the U.S..

By this history, one would judge that the NCCB is anti-U.S. and extremely liberal in its views and actions.

Appeasement, weakness, indecision and inaction will always encourage the evil men of this world to act. Only military power and the will to use it will dissuade them from their evil acts.

All that is needed for evil men to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

Ben Reed
Silver Birch Circle
Fairport

EDITOR'S NOTE: The former NCCB and its public policy arm, the U.S. Catholic Conference, have been merged into a single entity now known as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Ardent saint offers model

To the editor:

I am an American of Hibernian decent and in respect to the political and religious strife today I wanted to mention the life of a great and ancient saint, Gregory of Tours.

St. Gregory was English by birth and evangelized in what was Gaul at the time. He was a contemporary of Clovis I and Aetius, the last true Roman. He was a zealous preacher and worked to convert heathens to Christianity, as well as authoring some of the only extant records of that time: He worked so hard in fact that he earned the censure of the Pope for his determined ef-

forts to reform his Irish monks. He paid the ultimate price for his faith being martyred by Pagan Frisians at a confirmation of young Frisian converts.

He loved his God too much to be separated from Him any longer than He could bear. I think the lesson his life teaches us is that if we love each other as much as he loved God we would please God as he did.

Jeremiah Hickey III
Rochester

Appreciated health story

To the editor:

Thank you for a wonderful article, "No insurance, no assurance," and for the ways health care professionals like Rita D'Aoust, NP, and Gene Werner, RN, are continuing the healing ministry of Jesus in their clinical settings. Rita, who is on the faculty at the University of Rochester School of Nursing, brings her commitment and expertise into the academic environment and has been recognized by her peers and students for her dedication and compassion. Thank you for recognizing the contribution of nursing in our Diocese, and indeed, the world.

Margaret Lash
Main Street
Phelps

'Immoral' defense

To the editor:

The Diocese of Rochester's "statute of limitations" defense in the sexual abuse case is immoral!

John Jenkins
Wheatstone Circle
Fairport

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.

Mail letters to: *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624 or e-mail to letters@catholiccourier.com. Please include your full name, phone number and complete address for verification.