



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

This quilt hanging in the lobby of St. John of Rochester in Fairport was made by St. John's first communicants.

MORE LETTERS

Christians. This is what we need to get real about.

Rosalie P. Krajci
Murphy Road
Corning

Criticism can be charitable

To the editor:

To echo Msgr. Shannon's letter to you (July 24), I must raise my voice in serious question over the tone of letters to the editor written and published week after week in your newspaper. Msgr. Shannon raises the question, "why such vitriolic reaction?" to the column written by Sister Patricia Schoelles. Why stop with just reaction to this author? Whenever Father McBrien, Bishop Clark or any other author writes anything about any church related issue — the attacks begin. Of course, the lightning rod issues tend to be homosexuality, moving tabernacles and abortion. And always the response is the same — those that raise these issues and do not absolutely condemn them have no faith in God. I wish I could be so sure about my own faith as to stand on solid ground condemning another's! Although to all of us whose faith has been questioned — I guess we are in good company as I remember reading over and over again how the 12 Apostles'

faith was questioned constantly. Come on people — can't we be a little nicer, a little more joyous and bit more charitable to each other?

Father Lee P. Chase
St. Thomas More
Brighton

Teaching calls for everyday faith practice

To the editor:

It was a pleasure to work with your staff reporter and photo intern several weeks ago as they developed the "Family recipe includes social justice" story published in (the July 17) *Courier*.

I'd like to add something that was not included in the story due to space constraints, but that I feel is integral to my efforts to pass on the Church's social justice teaching to my children. One of the seven major principles of Catholic Social Teaching is a "Call to Family, Community and Participation." This principle is challenging, as it stresses the importance of integrating our faith life into our home, our workplace, and our community involvement. Being Catholic is not about what we do on Sundays, but who we are every day of the week.

I learned all I needed to know about this aspect of being a Catholic and a Chris-

tian by watching my parents, Don and Betty Hurley, as they raised 10 children, volunteered in the community, helped neighbors, and ran a small business. Their "approach" was to simply live authentic Christian lives, day in and day out. It is their example that I follow as I teach my own children.

Their instruction in faith and justice did not end at the close of Mass on Sunday mornings. Indeed, it continues to this day, and I'm sure my children are watching just as I did.

Brigit Hurley
Scott Crescent
Scottsville

Says church leaders must be consistent

To the editor:

In response to Rev. William Cosgrove's letter in

the July 10th issue, I have a question regarding his statement, "The Catholic Church could not make it any clearer that homosexuality is absolutely immoral, and a Catholic does not have a choice about that — and still consider himself Catholic." I was once told by a Catholic priest that he is anxious to get to heaven to see the looks on the faces of those who believe sex and morality have anything to do with each other. He said that sex between two people, regardless of their sexual orientation, who truly love each other where there is no coercion, trickery or deceit involved, is not sinful or immoral. How are we supposed to know who to believe? How do we know the truth when clearly, two priests in the same diocese, differ so greatly in what they believe and teach?

If we are to accept the teachings of the Church as absolute truth, perhaps the leaders of the Church should all believe the same thing.

Margaret Fletcher
Washington Street
Geneva

What drives farmers?

To the editor:

I read with great interest the article "Planting the seeds of hope" (July 10, 2003) and the author's attempt to provide a balanced look at the problem of exploited — and frequently illegal — migrant farm workers.

Some 35 years ago I too moved Upstate, to become a farmer. I found out that it is not as easy as it looks to a city boy. Did someone say

"Ignorance is bliss?" Not only are there myriad things to learn but there is also the need for a huge amount, by my standards, of capital.

The article was fascinating but I would ask that the next time the author talks with farmers he ask five additional questions:

1. What is the total value of the land, machinery, buildings, and possibly livestock of your farm?

2. Invested in some other activity, what is the yearly return you might expect to get for that investment?

3. What is the yearly return on your investment in the farm?

4. What is your personal hourly rate of pay?

The answers to these four questions will inevitably, I believe, lead to the fifth:

5. Why do you farm?

Allen Weaver
Cork Street
Aurora

Migrants not appreciated

To the editor:

Thank you for the cover story of the *Courier* of July 10, 2003 which tells of efforts to improve the lot of migrant farm workers.

Surely, the migrant farm worker is the overlooked worker in our economy.

Since Catholic social justice teaching promotes being over having and the inviolable dignity of the human person over the profit motive, more should be done to assist migrant farm workers.

Thanks for calling our attention to the migrant farm workers' hard life.

Tom Fogarty
Walnut Street
Auburn

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.