



more fully, Father Larry Richards has an audiocassette tape called "The Mass Explained." Father Richards starts with the sacrifice of Abraham to the resurrected Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

Both of these audiocassettes can be ordered online at [www.catholicity.com](http://www.catholicity.com).

Jane Stalica  
Hittown Road  
Pine City

## Pray to Jesus, honor God

To the editor:

I read the two-page article, "Saints stir piety, superstition." It is difficult for me to believe that anyone could believe that burying a statue of Joseph upside down or otherwise in his yard was the reason for the sale of Mr. Binz's house.

Father Volino said that he does not believe the saints take anything away from worship to Christ or the Trinity.

In John's Gospel 14:13 & 14 Jesus said, "And whatever you shall ask in my name that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it."

Jesus answers the prayers of Christians so his father will be glorified! Not the saints.

In the first place in 1 Timothy 2:5 in the Bible Paul said, "There is one God and one mediator between God and men — the man Christ

Jesus."

When I pray about something, I pray to God in the name of Jesus, then, when prayer is answered, I can give the glory to God, not to saints.

Pauline Chayka  
Port Watson Street  
Cortland

## Can't relate

To the editor:

This is with reference to Thomas Horan's Oct. 23 letter lamenting the poor response to Partners in Faith fundraiser.

In the people's lack of response, perhaps they are conveying their feelings that the financial goal is way out of sight. The church is, above all, eminently spiritual, in and through which God commands His people: "Be holy because I am holy." Maybe the people cannot relate \$50,000,000 with holiness.

Joanne Rys Lepkowski  
Ross Street  
Owego

## DIY, Father!

To the editor:

This Catholic is tired of Father Richard McBrien's attacks on the Pope (*Catholic Courier*, Essays in Theology, October 23 and 30). Father McBrien should be the one that commits the "act of Love" for the good of the church by resigning.

Donald Copenhagen  
Belcher Road  
Bloomfield

# When facing chaotic times, seek peace through order

"The church had been fitted into the landscape in such a way as to become the keystone of its intelligibility.... The whole landscape, unified by the church and its heavenward spire, seemed to say, "This is the meaning of all created things. We have been made for no other purpose than that men may use us in raising themselves to God, in proclaiming the glory of God."

These reflections by Trappist Father Thomas Merton on his hometown of St. Antonin, France, speak of the order and peace that we desperately seek in our chaotic times. "Where," we ask, "is the unifying center that makes things fit together? Will the time arrive when we are not reminded constantly of terrorism, economic woes, ecological damage, scandals and new diseases, and when our leadership is more respected than suspected?"

You know, to fight our own enemy we must get it out into the open. If we find the news depressing, the best way to fight back is to get at its roots.

When today's problems are boiled down, what we have is the age-old war between order and disorder. Disorder is our enemy; that's the reality. And we sense it as an enemy. Actually, what we are sensing is the loss of the order that is like a friend. We're not



Father Eugene Hemrick

### Making a Difference

meant for chaos.

But how do we contend with this? Where do we start? First and foremost by turning to the wisdom of the Bible.

In Genesis we learn that everything God created fits together to serve humanity. Another word for God's creation is "cosmos." It is opposed by chaos. When God created the cosmos he showed us that he is order and that everything is ordered to him. The Bible reminds us, however, that there always is someone who chooses chaos over order.

Early on we read of the Tower of Babel and how humankind decided to reorder things to itself. The result was babbling and the chaos that accompanies the inability to communicate with one another.

I think that when we find the news of our world depressing and dispiriting, it is because we long for that unifying center that makes sense of things. Our innate fear of disorder is telling us

that life and the world around us isn't going according to plan. However, when we look at this with biblical eyes, we realize that order was lost at the very beginning and that all of history has been a story of trying to recover it.

Once we concede that disorder is our foe, we know the real enemy. With this knowledge and wisdom come the power and courage needed to fight to reorder life as it should be.

When I sense too much disorder in the world around me, I often try to put other things in order in my own life, which has the effect of giving me at least a certain sense of control. I also try to get more information on the situations that are disturbing me. Understanding — getting a better take on things — does a lot to bring order back into our lives.

But, yes, the events of our world that disturb us are a cross. And we're familiar with the cross. So this is where prayer comes in.

The cross leads us to deeper levels, to a new point in our lives — a point of understanding what we need to do, how we should feel and how we might respond to our world as it actually is.

Father Eugene Hemrick is a columnist for Catholic News Service.

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](mailto:letters@catholiccourier.com). Please include your full name, phone number and complete address for verification.

Letters Policy