



Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

Providence Housing Development Corporation; RDA Container; St. Stephen's Ministry of St. Louis Parish; SWBR Architects; Boy Scouts of America Troops 153, 332 and 350; the Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley Troops 162 and 412; Hylan Drive Wegmans and Chase-Pitkin; Tim Hortons-Henrietta; Tony Pepperoni Pizza; and Wal-Mart Henrietta store.

I wish to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who provided help and support to Providence and the residents of West Town Village during this difficult time.

Maggie Bringewatt
Executive Director
Providence Housing
Development Corporation

Connects via new monthly

To the editor:

I was born and raised in Auburn. I have pastored two churches in the Catholic Diocese of Albany.

Recently your new monthly *Catholic Courier* has been coming to me. Each new issue is better than the last.

Keep up the good work. I

am so glad to keep connected with my roots.

Father Chris Welch
Bleecker Street
Greenwich, N.Y.

Lauds priest for kind act

To the editor:

In the midst of all the bad news in the world, I would like to share a ray of sunshine brought by a truly kind person, Father Paul Tomasso. I met him in the elevator at Rochester General Hospital on May 12 as I was leaving a sick friend. I asked him if he was the chaplain. He said no, but could he help. He came back up to the room with me and gave my friend the sacrament of the sick. My friend died the next morning at 3 a.m.

Because of Father Tomasso's kindness, I know Rocky died a peaceful death. It would have been easy for Father to say, "Here's the number for the chaplain," but he didn't. He took the time to help a stranger (Hebrews 13:2). Father Tomasso, you will be in my prayers forever. Rocky's family, friends and

I will be eternally grateful.
Marion Overslaugh-Bedell
Village Trail
Honeoye Falls

Mull level of commitment

To the editor:

Father Jim Hewes' letter to the editor (June 2: "Candidates' positions disappointing") says he cannot support either President Bush or Senator Kerry in the Presidential election in November. His reason for not supporting Mr. Bush is his war policy and his reason for not supporting Mr. Kerry is his stance on abortion. His challenge to Mr. Kerry is quite appropriate. But I don't expect him to rise to the challenge.

I suggest to you and to Father Hewes that Mr. Bush's opinions regarding abortion are also not in agreement with the Catholic Church's teaching. It is well-known that he believes in abortion on the three grounds of rape, incest and the health of the mother. He has never repudiated this position. So, in reality, he is pro-choice. Some American bishops seem to have overlooked that in their attacks on Mr. Kerry's Catholicism. They should also comment on Mr. Bush's depth of commitment to Christian principles.

Let me go further. Senator Rick Santorum, Republican of Pennsylvania, is regarded by many in the Catholic pro-life movement as a model politician who follows Catholic teaching on abortion. Yet this is really a disingenuous position by Mr. Santorum. In the recent primary in his state he campaigned vigorously for his pro-abortion Senate colleague, Mr. Arlen Specter, against a staunch pro-life challenger.

Mr. Santorum put party above principle. In other words, he promoted a man whose vote in the Senate will cancel out his vote on the confirmation of the next Supreme Court Justice and on the next bill that attempts to restrict abortions. Mr. Santorum is a committed ally of Mr. Bush. He chose the easy way. He can continue to say how pro-life he is, knowing that his colleague will vote the other way.

Keep all this in mind when you vote in November.

Donald Muench
Smallwood Drive
Pittsford

Tell people they're loved

To the editor:

Reading the obituary of Sister Teresa Laurene Creighton (April 4) made me realize how fortunate I am. I had the pleasure of knowing her at St. Mary's School in Canandaigua, where she helped me with my Latin while in training as an altar boy. She was a fine educator and an inspiration to many. Her kindness, encouragement, dedication and, most of all, faith set examples I've carried with me all my adult life. Now, my daughters and I celebrate the Holy Mass at St. Januarius in Naples and we are blessed with Father Mickey McGrath. Sister Teresa Laurene set a foundation in my life and now that foundation is strengthened by that same spirit of goodness and grace. Before those people so meaningful in our lives move away or go on to other challenges, let them know that they are

loved — not only by our Father in heaven — by their flock. It is with sadness I see her passing, yet the knowledge of her career is heart-warming.

Terry A. Reiff
Italy Valley Road, Naples

Weigh votes on all issues

To the editor:

The Social Gospels teach us that we must aid the economically less fortunate, visit the imprisoned, give assistance to the sick and safeguard the environment — God's gift to us — to name a few. More recently, Catholic teaching introduced the "seamless garment" concept which includes the Social Gospels and a "pro-life" ethic. Unfortunately none of the candidates has a strong record on *all of these teachings*.

The May 5 George Weigel column was so convoluted as to be of no value in reaching a prayerful voting decision. His Sept. 10 vs. Sept. 12 people concept is not ethically, morally or intellectually sustainable. Likewise, his concept of freedom picks out three virtues and ignores the remainder of Social-Gospel and Seamless Garment teachings. In America the "fundamental division over the nature of freedom" is not willfulness vs. a certain group's definition of virtue, it is found in our Constitution.

Let's examine the candidates' *whole* record, ask God's guidance and vote.

Paul Stack
Colby Street
Rochester

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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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