

LETTERS

Eucharist not political tool

To the editor:

Mr. Haney's letter in the August *Courier* suggests that he feels the Eucharist is a political tool — weapon? — but I wonder if he has given the matter the kind of conscience testing I would hope any Catholic would.

The issue does not seem to me to be one of Holy Communion or not based upon issues like abortion but rather, can one represent and minister to the Catholic Church while publicly opposing the teaching of the Church. The bishops, in my reading, have said that the issue of sacramental reception is one of conscience — and we all MUST form our conscience properly and then judge our relationship with God based upon that PROPERLY formed conscience. If I believe you are in spiritually dangerous place, I have an obligation in conscience to inform you — lovingly — of that. I do not have the right, ability or authority to pronounce your loss of salvation. However, I can question whether or not you should be seen publicly as a part of the ministry of the Church given your public actions and statements.

I do not believe any brother or sister should carry the role of minister if they are in serious opposition to the teaching of the Church. I realize that others will dis-

agree with me on multiple levels, nevertheless this is my opinion.

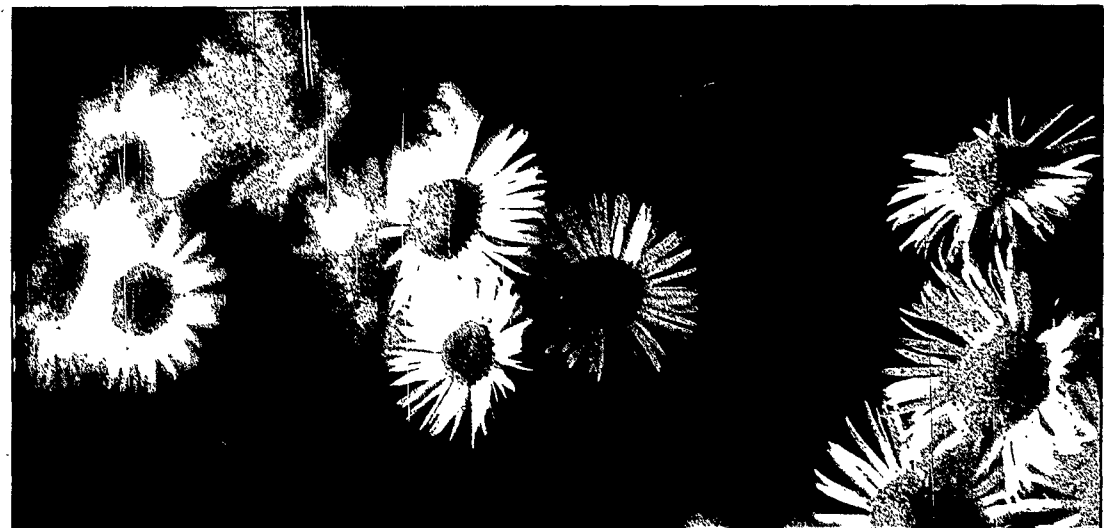
Those who would accept positions of leadership must hold themselves to a higher level of responsibility to live, teach and support the teachings of the Church. This would also include those who, by their being held in high regard by their brothers and sisters in faith, are looked to as examples of living faith. I think politicians would qualify under that definition, especially politicians who are also lecturers.

Deacon John Tomandl
Park Avenue, Auburn

'Choice' is illogical idea

To the editor:

In the August print edition of the *Catholic Courier* a letter was published by Mr. Paul Haney in which he stated "I support the right of a woman to choose an abortion." Mr. Haney is a parish trustee, lector, and is on the Board of Trustees of Aquinas Institute. According to Catholic teaching Mr. Haney is endorsing the "right" of a person to choose homicide. I wonder in what other areas Mr. Haney would endorse the idea of "choice?" Would he allow for freedom of choice in the area of civil rights? On warfare? On aid to the poor? Unfortunately, I think that Mr. Haney is typical of many confused Catholics in the



Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

Rochester area. The idea that infant homicide should be some kind of choice as long as the person is "personally opposed" flies in the face of logic and displays a distorted understanding of Catholic moral teaching. Mr. Haney is free to (hold these views), but he should not be allowed to serve in any official capacity within the Church as long as he publicly dissents from Church teaching. If he does not have the good sense to step down from these positions then he should be removed for the good of the local Catholic community.

Eugene Michael
Daley Boulevard
Rochester

Put church before party

To the editor:

Paul E. Haney's August letter stated that abortion

was wrong. Later he proclaimed: "I support the right of a woman to choose abortion." The Catholic background of Mr. Haney had little effect on reaching a moral decision. The church, not our loyalty to any political party, is the key to a happy eternity.

Robert Bart
Elm Street, Ithaca

Straighten out priorities

To the editor:

Regarding Paul E. Haney's letter August *Courier*, being against abortion is a matter of faith not one's political bias. I am confident our church would take exactly the same position on this issue whether the elected official was a Republican or a Democrat.

The argument that one has the obligation to vote for abortion rights because it represents the ideology of a

majority of their constituents is ludicrous. On that basis we would still have slavery in the United States, Hitler would still be ruling Germany and Saddam would still be killing thousands of his citizens each year in Iraq. Our political leaders need also to be moral leaders. If you do not feel free to vote your conscience, you shouldn't be representing anyone.

This is America; if we can't vote our conscience as Catholics then perhaps another civil war is in the offing for in every sense of the concept we are being held in bondage. I will pray to the Holy Spirit that all elected officials who place their elected position as a higher priority than the life of a child will receive an attitude adjustment.

John Slason
Ball Road, Weedsport

Others' sins not relevant

To the editor:

In response to Paul Haney's August 2004 letter, it is impossible to believe that something is morally wrong and at the same time, promote its legality. Possessing God-given free will, we may "choose" to do as we please, but this does not mean that immoral acts should be committed without legal penalty.

Haney believes that a woman "should have the right to choose what is morally and physically right for her." This is moral relativism — the belief that there is no definite right or wrong. We know as Cath-

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