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Letters Policy

The *Catholic Courier* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all *signed,* original letters about current issues affecting church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication 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 of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: ***Catholic Courier,* 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624.** Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.

Tridentine Mass enriches worship



To the editors:

This letter is in regard to an August 22 article on the Tridentine Mass (*Catholic Courier:* "Calls abide for Tridentine's return"). Although I attended Catholic elementary school, high school and college, being a post-conciliar child I was not exposed to the Tridentine Mass nor to much of the Catholic tradition that was abandoned after Vatican II. It can be said that my entire generation is poorer for this total denial of access to our Catholic heritage. Let me say that I firmly believe in the validity of Vatican II and the *Novus Ordo* (New Order) Mass, but I must also say that many Catholics especially of my generation have an inadequate understanding of what the Mass actually is.

The singular view of the Eucharist alone as a "brotherly meal" among a community of friends, breaking bread in remembrance of the Lord's Last Supper is insufficient because it neglects to view the Mass as the common sacrifice of the Church. This sacrifice is the perpetuation of the Sacrificial offering of Christ on Calvary in which Our Lord prays for us and communicates himself to us.

Many people say that in order to make the Mass meaningful it must be an expression of the community. This shows a pervasive error in the understanding of what is distinctive to the liturgy. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is not what "we do" but rather is something that "takes place" here, that not all of us together as church or community can "make." The Tridentine Mass makes people aware of a transcendent reality, this transcendent reality is grossly neglected by a vast majority of Catholics today who allow themselves to be assimilated into the moral relativism and materialistic consumerism of the present godless secular society.

The idea of participation in the Mass by the people is important and people must participate. The narrow perspective that participation only occurs with discernible external activity, such as speaking, singing, preaching, reading, shaking hands disregards the most important participation, that which occurs in silence. During the Tridentine Mass the priest does not turn his back to the people, he instead raises the dignity of the people by facing the same direction as they, and turns towards that which is Wholly Other. What we need is this, an encounter with the sacred through a worship that manifests the presence of the Eternal.

As the young father of a growing family, I wish to be a member of a church community that practices a legitimate form of liturgical pluralism that has been stressed by Vatican II and it's interpreters.

Joseph G. Morgan
Park Avenue
Rochester

Divine covenant decrees male priesthood

To the editors:

Mr. McGee of Houston (letter, *Catholic Courier,* Aug. 15: "Private revelation weak support for case") dismisses Father Shamon's ideas against women's ordination and reduces the "problem" of their exclusion by questioning precisely "where in public revelation contained in the deposit of faith is there a divine decree excluding women?" Forgetting, of course, precisely where in it can they be found ordered? Divine will can be maintained as decisively by silence as by thunderclap.

In using the criteria of revelation, deposit of faith and divine decree to argue against exclusively male priesthood he thereupon abandons the same revelation, deposit of faith and divine decree that is Hebrew covenant; the everlasting covenant that Jesus renews and passes into the hands of male Apostles now for a wider world. It is McGee who would make Christ's public revelation and deposit to the Apostles into a "private revelation" of erring males.

How yielding and easily chiselled out would be a "divine decree" by itself to hands wielding facile tools such as "biblical criticalism." Fixing more firmly than any single prohibition could do, "He Is" went on to clothe His unique identity by convenantly empowering an exclusively male priesthood to weave Himself across the woof and warp of an everlasting revelation. There can be no pulling that one thread without stripping off His divine garment.

Yes, there is indeed something intrinsic in an exclusively male priesthood: the identity in an Unique One of exclusive attributes revealed in the Testaments, defined by councils; most recently Vatican One. These delineate a Power beyond anything able to be expressed by men and women.

That no power on earth gave us Him is the crux of Hebrew covenant. And for it its highest Priest, Jesus the Anointed, obediently let Himself be silenced. His Apostles testify in His stead that Who He Is shall return, not mincingly, but openly manifesting that Power.

Gene Charles
Geneva Turnpike
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Prayers for priests calendar ends 'Courier' ads due to lack of funds

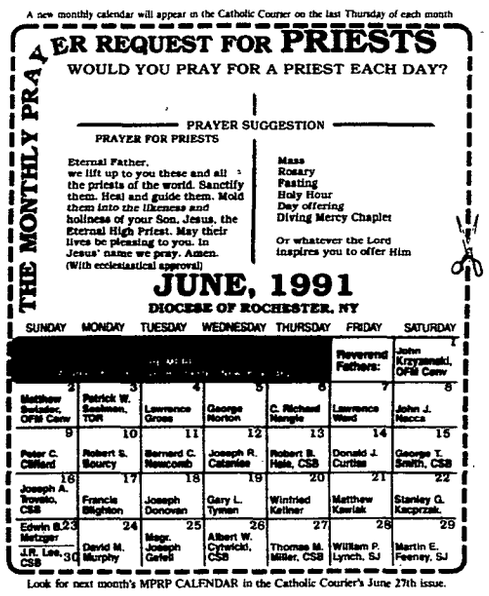
To the editors:

We are sorry to advise your readers (clergy and laity) that after a 5-month display in the *Catholic Courier* we are obliged to discontinue the MPRP (Monthly Prayer Request for Priests) calendar. The donations have not kept pace with the cost of the calendar ad which is $203.00 each month. We tried to offer prayers through this media as a powerful means of helping our priests, but even with the best of intentions we are not able to meet the financial obligations.

However, we are not giving up, we are retrenching. We will return to our original format of mailing one bimonthly calendar (2 months) per request beginning with September. If interested write MPRP at the address given below.

We wish to thank all those who supported our efforts prayerfully and financially and hope they and others will continue to do so. The Blessed Mother wants us to pray for priests — and we want to — especially our own.

Mary M. Reilich
The MPRP Committee
Green Knolls Drive
Rochester



A new monthly calendar will appear in the Catholic Courier on the last Thursday of each month

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS
WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION
PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Eternal Father,
we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Holy Hour
Day offering
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

JUNE, 1991
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Reverend Fathers:	1 John Krzyzanski, OFM Conv
2 Matthew Swistek, OFM Conv	3 Patrick W. Seaheon, TOR	4 Lawrence Gross	5 George Norton	6 C. Richard Nangle	7 Lawrence Ward	8 John J. Hacca
9 Peter C. Clifford	10 Robert S. Bourcy	11 Bernard C. Newcomb	12 Joseph R. Catarise	13 Robert B. Hale, CSB	14 Donald J. Curtiss	15 George T. Smith, CSB
16 Joseph A. Trovato, CSB	17 Francis Blighton	18 Joseph Donovan	19 Gary L. Tyman	20 Winfried Kellner	21 Matthew Kasiak	22 Stanley G. Kacprzak
23 Edwin B. Metzger	24 David M. Murphy	25 Msgr. Joseph Gefell	26 Albert W. Cyhelski, CSB	27 Thomas M. Miller, CSB	28 William P. Lynch, SJ	29 Martin E. Feeney, SJ
30 J.R. Lee, CSB						

Look for next month's MPRP CALENDAR in the Catholic Courier's June 27th issue.