

Letters to the Editor

St. Peter's has unified in the wake of arrest

I am writing in response to the article on the front page of the April 22 Geneva Republican about St. Peter's former choir leader.

I am a parishioner of St. Peter's in Geneva and I was at the 9 am Mass on Sunday, April 18. So you can imagine how surprised I was to read the article written by Rita Hoover. It paints a completely different picture from what I experienced. It is disturbing to me that your paper would allow such a one-sided view.

Unlike Katherine Rock, I thought the homily given by the Rev. Joseph Jarmoluk was eloquent and inspiring. I was relieved that he did not spend the entire homily discussing the unfortunate situation with Mr. Pavone. He focused on the scripture readings and tied them to our current day situations. We do need to have more mercy for our fellow man in this day and age! I was also surprised to read in your article that a group of parishioners walked out. I was sitting on the left side of the front center section, about two-thirds of the way back (pretty close to the front of the church) and noticed no one leaving except the occasional child on a bathroom run. How many parishioners walked out? When?

In contrast, I felt the entire congregation participat-

ed more than they usually do. And I could have sworn the congregation sang more and responded louder than they have in a long time. I remember sitting there thinking to myself that this is so refreshing and I am so glad that we are coming together as a parish family and supporting our pastor. So I would be interested to know how many people left and who they were.

Unlike Katherine Rock, my spirituality has been uplifted by the high road that the Rev. Jarmoluk has taken in the unfortunate situations he has recently encountered. From an outsider's perspective, it seems as though he is in a no-win situation no matter what he does. I am tired of the atmosphere in this country that there is always someone to blame. Sometimes bad things happen that no one can prevent, no matter how many steps are taken. It is not necessarily anyone's fault and I, for one, refuse to place blame.

I wonder what those who allegedly walked out of Mass were wanting to hear? What would have made it better for them? I wish that your article had at least given another side to the story. The media is always so quick to slam. I guess it makes for better news.

Stacy Sebby, Geneva



Flashback to the front page of last week's Geneva Republican and the main story which prompted parishioners to write to Letters to the Editor.