

## The church is not the enemy

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to the April 18, 2004, Guest View by Frank Bochte.

Regarding Mr. Bochte's remarks about the Bishop of the Rockford Diocese, Thomas Doran, and his handling of matters of accused Mark Campobello and his attorneys: I would like to say I take exception to this man's attack on our good bishop and other priests of our Catholic Church.

I was brought to tears as I read your scandalous accusations regarding our Bishop and your own parish priest. I am not a member of your parish, but have attended Mass there several times, and have prayed for your parish and your priests as you all face the difficult situations of the recent past which have surely affected each of you, as well as every member of the Body of Christ.

This brings me to the point of my response. Mr. Bochte, why are you attacking our suffering church? We have all been hit with scandal. We are all members of the Body of Christ and when one is hurting, all others are as well. As a Catholic, I am to pray for my enemies and those who have injured me. I am to lift up all those in question in prayer and trust the Holy Spirit to guide and protect our church.

I know that Bishop Doran is an honorable servant to our church, and he should be lifted up in prayer, not maligned in the secular press, as you have done. The accused is not yet proven guilty — though you wouldn't know it from the reports in the news.

Our good priests — and they are many in number — bring us the living Christ in Holy Communion at each and every Mass. Could you do without Him? I could not and hope I never have to.

If you have a question regarding the handling of your money by the church, go to the

source for your answer. Trust Our Lord, the head of our Church, to see that all goes according to His plan. Do not publicly malign and bring more scandal to our suffering church. Do all you can to build up the Body of Christ. The money we parishioners donate to our church is given in gratitude for all that God has done for us. I support my church and all she does. I pray for our priests, as every Catholic should.

The Catholic Church does an awesome job of bringing the light and love of Christ to a dark world, and I for one, hope never to be without her.

So, Mr. Bochte, before you throw another stone, please examine your own actions and motives. Please remember that the Church is not your enemy. Satan is the enemy, and you have played right into his hands.

**Mary Floeck**  
Batavia