

Kane County Chronicle
July 11, 2004
Disagrees with
opinions, actions

To the Editor:

Another week, another vile piece in the media from Frank Bochte regarding his issues with Msgr. Joseph Jarmoluk and St. Peter Parish.

As a parishioner of St. Peter Church, I would ask that Mr. Bochte refrain from positioning himself as the official spokesperson for the members of the parish. I do not agree with his opinions, actions or manner in which he chooses to use the media. Judging from his published comments in recent months, it is obvious to me that Mr. Bochte's issues have less to do with protecting children than to further his undeniable personal animosity toward Father Joe.

The issue of our former choir director is irrelevant. The FBI itself could have investigated the background of Michael Pavone and would have found nothing because there was nothing to be found, nothing except gossip and innuendo. Although one issue has nothing to do with the other, can it be proven that three years ago people in the diocese knew that Mark Campobello's illegal and immoral behavior was fact and not gossip and innuendo?

Regarding the statements about the Pastoral Council: Isn't it possible that rather than being Father Joe's "yes-men (and women)" they are simply individuals who share Father Joe's vision for St. Peter Church, individuals who work hard to promote a sense of peace and grace at our parish? I believe it is.

As to Father Joe supposedly "fostering an us against them mentality," it appears to me that ringleader Frank Bochte and his gang are themselves responsible for promoting such a feeling with their relentless public hostility. Whenever I have asked Father Joe a question, or raised a concern, I have always received a clear, straight-forward answer that I knew to be true in fact and sentiment.

I know from personal experience that they do not accept opinions different from their own. I will not, however, sit back and silently accept the barrage of criticism aimed at my pastor. Father Joe has not "run" from anything — if he has why did he cancel his well-deserved sabbatical? The grace and dignity with which Father Joe has dealt with the onslaught of constant hateful attacks in the media has been admirable.

I pray for my parish and for those members who promote dissent to the extreme of outright malice. If ever I am in a position even slightly as unfortunate and unfair as Father Joe has been subjected to, I pray that I will remember him as a role model and that I will be half the person he is.

Angela K. Pavelich
Geneva