

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Emmitsburg Dispatch* encourages its readers to express their thoughts and opinions about issues that appear in this publication or affect the community. Letters must be exclusive to the *Dispatch* and should be no longer than 300 words in length. They must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be used for verification. The *Emmitsburg Dispatch* reserves the right to edit letters for content and space.

Double standard to judge visionary

The Aug. 18 letter to the *Dispatch*, written by 12 local priests and a religious sister, is flawed in at least six ways. It only intensifies the confusion of those interested in the visionary, Gianna Talone-Sullivan. Here is one grievous error:

They acknowledge "the good work done by the Mission of Mercy, which is headed by some of the same people who promote the alleged messages," and then allege, "it is necessary to make an intellectual distinction between the two works."

The distinction is real, but it is the *opposite of necessary!* It must be

ignored when evaluating a visionary, or anyone. These writers, more than any, should know that a person's works help reveal her/his character.

The good works of Gianna and of those who believe her – and the total lack of any bad works by her or them – say much about who she is. They undermine any thought she is lying, mistaken, or deceived.

Of course, her good works do not *prove* she receives messages from heaven. Even miracles would not prove that. But the facts do prove that Gianna is a good person, and telling the truth when she reports her visions and messages.

The letter-writers, nevertheless tell us not to let Gianna's good works influence our thoughts about her.

Would they say the same thing if Gianna sold fake jewelry at prayer meetings? or if her followers worshiped demons? Certainly not. They would justly associate those *bad* actions with her claims.

So, they *unjustly deny* the association of her *good* actions with her claims. A striking example of a double standard – presented by priests and a sister!

Jesus says, (Matt. 7:18, 20) "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit ... So by their fruits you will know them."

-William Steo
Emmitsburg

Worries about 'McCarthy-esque atmosphere'

I would like to clarify some facts regarding my recent resignations. I do not fear an ethics investigation, per se. However, I do not relish the idea of being investigated by a committee that I have publicly railed against for the poor quality of their most recent investigation. I also do not expect that Mr. Mazaleski is interested in filing an ethics complaint.

My point was that, during that meeting, I was struck by the fact that by holding these positions I was laying myself and my family wide open to an

investigation by a committee that I had no faith would do the right thing. This should by no means discourage others from volunteering. Had I not spoken against the committee's report, had I not supported certain candidates, had I not been a member of COPE, then I would not be worried about repercussions. I regret doing none of those things – but under the current McCarthy-esque atmosphere – I feel it best to step aside and let someone else fill these positions.

-Sabrina Paxton-Daily
Emmitsburg

Clarification about 'Our Lady of Emmitsburg' Picture

I was disappointed to see my words about my husband's picture, "Our Lady of Emmitsburg," watered down in the August 4, 2005 edition of *The Dispatch*.

If I had been asked about my statement that in the Catholic Church it can be a sin against the First Commandment to promote or honor alleged private revelations for which one does not have certitude or proof, I would have explained that was not something I just dreamed up, but that both Peter and I were dismayed to learn this from Father Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R., the beloved priest and scholar. It was Father Groeschel's words on tape and in his book, "A Still Small Voice," that absolutely stunned Peter and me into realizing

how careful one must be about private revelations.

Gianna Sullivan has agreed to honor my prohibition against using the picture (in a April 19, 2001 letter). Nor is the prohibition "at this time," words that crept into the newspapers words. The Church follows the Holy Spirit and knows things we do not know. Cardinal Ratzinger, now our pope, has addressed these private revelations. I believe we will not see any change in the Church's reservations about this.

To repeat what I said, I am not permitting anyone to copy the picture because in the Catholic Church it can be a sin against the First Commandment to promote or honor alleged private revelations for which one does not have

certitude or proof, and the Church has given warnings about alleged Our Lady of Emmitsburg private revelations.

Instead of our getting upset, splitting into factions, and being deterred from the true battles, those against Satan and the world's evil, let us all be calm as Father Groeschel says, love and follow Jesus, pray many rosaries to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and whenever we can, let us go before the Holy Eucharist and receive Our Lord, to arm ourselves for the real fight, not a fight with each other. Quarrels among ourselves are not what Our Lady wants.

- Elizabeth A. (Betty) Bianchi
Greenbelt, Md.

'By their fruits you shall know them'

Recently, six messages from Our Blessed Mother given to Gianna Sullivan appeared in this newspaper. Gianna is a child of God, always was and always will be. These messages are important because they tell us again about how to respond to the large number of people soon to come to Emmitsburg looking for hope and assistance.

Gianna wears a number of hats. She is a devoted wife, mother, foundress of Mission of Mercy, Doctor of Pharmacology, visionary and friend to all. Many prophecies revealed to Gianna have already taken place. Just to mention one, millions upon millions of dead fish are washing up on shores around the U.S. and the world. ... Oceanographers are dismayed and puzzled, yet the Blessed Mother

told Gianna this prophecy several years ago.

Whether you believe in her prophecies or not, what's more important is her limitless work with Mission of Mercy. Together with hundreds of dedicated volunteers in three states (Maryland, Pennsylvania and Arizona), Mission of Mercy, under the medical leadership of Dr. Michael Sullivan, Gianna's husband, has provided medical and dental services to over 52,000 patients, and dispensed over 250,000 prescriptions, free of charge.

Mission of Mercy, under the watchful eye of God, Himself, together with the support of our Blessed Mother, continues to expand to help the unemployed or those with no insurance. Receiving

no federal funding whatsoever, relying solely on donations from generous benefactors, Mission of Mercy brings dignity and hope to those in dire medical and dental need.

Citizens of Emmitsburg, I must ask you a rhetorical question: if this inestimable service to the poor were not inspired and protected by God, do you think it would still be in existence today, considering the unending demands placed on Mission of Mercy service providers?

"By their fruits you shall know them." (Matthew 26:31-45) In the end, we will all be judged on how we served Jesus in the disguise of the poor.

-Tom Miller
Carroll Valley



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Emmitsburg Lion's Club Golf Tournament

Location - Mountain View Golf Course
Date & Time - Monday, September 26, 2005
8:00 am - Shotgun Start

\$65.00 Per Golfer includes:
Green Fees w/ Cart
Awards Banquet w/ Lunch Buffet - Located in JoAnn's
Ballroom at The Carriage House Inn

Proceeds Benefit the many community projects of the Emmitsburg Lion's Club
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