

reader reaction

Enjoy reading *Visitor*, but don't forget to pay for it

by Aloys Rademacher
Eden Valley, MN

February is Catholic Press Month. Catholic journalism had its beginning in the U.S. in 1822, ushered in by a pioneering editor, Bishop John England of the Charleston, S.C. diocese. His became the first diocesan paper, named *The New Catholic Miscellany*.

Diocesan publications carry a collection of writings on church-related subjects which provides nourishment for our interior lives. We all need to enjoy reading the *St. Cloud Visitor* more often. It does contain a variety of interesting articles on faith and family, including spiritual, which is so lacking by any of us, especially among our youth.

Checking with some St. Cloud parishes and rural parishes as well, we find that on the average, only about one-third in a parish pay the subscription price for the *Visitor*. The other two-thirds don't mind if their parish pays for their *Visitor*. They probably get the impression that the Catholic Church has lately not done everything right either.

What we have lost is an under-

standing of doctrine, its relationship to faith and its roots in Scripture and tradition. With today's "New Age" concepts and secularization infiltrating our lives, the world has "evangelized" the church faster than the church has evangelized the world.

With moral values disappearing around us daily and Christianity in a constant battle with worldly paganism, and with almost no sense of the sacred, it's tough nowadays to teach and to take time to read about spiritual matters concerning the church. It's time to seek a new beginning. •

Relation of miscarriage to cancer is misleading

by Fran and Eric Mildebrath
St. Cloud, MN

We are concerned that Father Tom Knoblach's article (*pro-life lines*, Jan. 26) may unnecessarily frighten many women who have experienced spontaneous abortions or miscarriages (a spontaneous abortion after the 12th week of gestation), a not uncommon occurrence with many young mothers to be.

It would have been better if Father Knoblach would have used *only* data from the most recent stud-

ies which separate the induced abortions from spontaneous abortions. We believe that using the statistics from studies which include spontaneous abortions and induced abortions is misleading.

An article by Dr. Joel Brind identifies a current study by Janet Daling, et al, published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* which presents data supporting the increased threat of breast cancer due to induced abortions only. Dr. Brind states, "The most recent studies (including the Daling study) suggest that spontaneous abortion probably does not confer increased risk." This is an important fact that many young women need to know.

We also feel it is inappropriate to mention breast cancer risks associated with the use of the pill and mammograms in an article titled, "Abortion and Breast Cancer." Breast cancer risks due to those issues are covered under different studies.

Let none of us confuse the life-threatening issue of breast cancer and induced abortions more than they already are by including spontaneous abortions and induced abortions in the same statistics. They should stand a world apart.