

## Letters to the editor: Nov. 26, 2009

### Celebration

Editor, Daily News:

I have just settled in Naples after having spent over half a century in different parts of the world.

During that time, I went to many charity events in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. So it was an entirely new experience for me to go the St. Matthew's House Celebration of Hope at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church on Nov. 10.

For, yes, it really was a celebration. This superb operation is unique to the United States; perhaps in some other English-speaking countries, the citizens get together in the hundreds to hear the story and pitch in together to solve the problem.

This is the kind of look into the soul of a nation that enables us to see what it is really all about and what works and what does not work.

You can look at all society as the relationship between the government and the individual. When does it work best in both the nonprofit and profit sectors?

This event was the answer. It works best when the individual is running the show and the government is not.

Perhaps there are examples of the government doing what St. Matthew's does; but if so, it will not be done with such terrific results and it will be many times more expensive.

And I do not know of any such bodies run by the government — any government, anywhere.

— Frank Peel

Naples and Geneva