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Church development looks like a win/win situation

To the editor:

What's all the commotion?

I wonder whether the community would react the same if a \$10 million shopping center were on the draft board?

I see this as a win/win situation.

We get property and school tax relief and a spiritual shopping center, too.

This is giving both to "Caesar" and to God. So let's praise the Lord!

From a non-member,

Roger A. Pinnel
Melrose Park

Large projects justify cautious review

To the editor:

Regarding the letter of Mr. Roger A. Pinnel, Chronicle/News Aug. 31, 2005. It is obvious that he was not a resident of Cheltenham Township during the mid-1970s. At that time, the Philadelphia Council of the Boy Scouts of America was in the process of selling its property holdings, known as the Breyer Tract, to a developer. The developer intended to build a Mega-Mall on that property. It was necessary to hold the first zoning board meeting in the auditorium of the Cheltenham High School. To say that the meeting was well attended would be an understatement.

Essentially, the plan was to construct what we now know as the Willow Grove mall on the property bounded by Township Line Road, Old York Road, Meeting House Road and the railroad. Currently, that property is the home to the Philadelphia College of Optometry and some residences. Financially, it may have been a win for the township through the various tax revenues that would have been generated. However, the infrastructure of the township would have been stretched beyond their limits through increased traffic congestion. Additionally, the quality of life and the charm of the neighborhood

would have been irreparably harmed.

We should be extremely cautious about any development of the magnitude that is currently being proposed.

Frank Palombaro
Elkins Park