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....—Photograph by Orville Andrews

A Prayer for July 4: "Crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea."

Bishops of State Stress:

Law of God on Abortion Is Unchanged

New York State's Catholic Bishops, calling abortion an example of the "violence, malice and selfishness" of the times, this week urged the people of the State to uphold "the sanctity of human life" and to use "courage and strength" to reject the liberalized abortion law.

Affirming that to destroy human life is "gravely wrong," the Bishops' statement said that "the law of God and the law of our Church remain unchanged" even though the state legislature amended the abortion law on April 10.

(The Bishops' full statement, signed by Bishops Hogan, Hickey and McCafferty for the

Diocese of Rochester, is printed on Page 18A.)

The declaration put the eight Catholic dioceses of the state on record as deploring the change in civil law which will permit widespread abortion operations, beginning July 1.

Under this law, called the loosest in the nation by both

lawyers and doctors, a woman, upon the advice of her doctor, can procure a legal abortion up to and including the 24th week of her pregnancy.

Throughout their remarks, the Bishops continually urge rejection of abortion as a solution to any problems.

They reject abortion "totally" as opposed not only to Christian tradition, but to the traditions and dignity of all human life.

Endorsing those hospitals which will not perform abortions, they call on all others to "maintain and develop policies to respect the consciences of their employees who refuse to participate."

The Bishops also showed support for "doctors, nurses and other health professionals who will not participate in this grave evil of abortion."

They said they were united with "multitudes of people of other religious beliefs in the defense of human life" which is attacked by the legalizing of abortions.

They called for an all out "campaign to reverse the life-

destroying trends in society which abortion and euthanasia represent."

The Bishops see the law as a grave threat to the poor, particularly, and noted abortion

may be used as a weapon to lower welfare rolls.

"We are most concerned" they said, that "the poor not be

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Bishop Hogan Calls Ecumenical Meeting

Bishop Hogan has invited leaders of nine Protestant church bodies in the Rochester area to a meeting at the Cenacle Retreat House, July 10-11, to discuss possible participation of the Diocese in a proposed ecumenical agency which

will replace the Area Council of Churches.

In an unprecedented gesture Bishop Hogan has taken the initiative to invite 17 Christian

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