

## Charities Backs Hatch Senators Divided

Diocesan Catholic Charities unanimously gave its moral support to the effort to pass the Hatch Human Life Amendment last week, but the New York senators are divided on how they will vote for the amendment.

The Charities board, following a presentation by Peg Tuñano of the diocesan Human Life Commission, last week voted unanimously to encourage passage of the constitutional amendment which would allow both the federal government and the states to pass legislation restricting abortions, the stronger law prevailing.

Spokesperson Elise Rabekoff for Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who was out of the country last week, said that he would vote against the measure because "he doesn't believe that the constitutional amendment approach is the best approach to the issue."

Speaking for Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato, Gary Lewi said last week that the senator "will support (the Hatch Amendment) with his vote," but that he is "not sure there is sufficient strength in the Senate" for passage of the measure, that "it will be close and every vote will count."

## Respect Life

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supports of the Hatch Human Life Amendment to the Constitution. The amendment states that abortion is not a right guaranteed by the Constitution, reverses the Roe vs. Wade decision, and allows the states to legislate restrictively while setting a minimum national standard of protection for the unborn. This is not the perfect amendment, but it is believed to be the achievable amendment.

The Courier-Journal has had excellent educational pieces this month on the Hatch Human Life Amendment, and the Human Life Commission has offered in January 14 opportunities throughout the diocese for people to learn about the Hatch amendment. This process will continue. But this weekend, Respect Life Sunday weekend, we will each be asked to act!

Our pastors will make available for signing a life roll card which states for legislators that one is for a human life amendment to the Constitution, especially the Hatch.

The Human Life Commission and Bishop Matthew H. Clark ask diocesan to give serious consideration to signing the life roll card and writing one or more letters in the near future to one's legislator in regard to the need for the Hatch Amendment.

Diocesan will also be

## Bishop Clark

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Commission, which receives no funds from any other collection.

In 1981, \$32,000 was collected — the bulk of it

asked to make a contribution to the Human Life Commission which seeks a generous response.

One half of all donations are sent immediately to non-profit groups which help women see their pregnancies to completion. The remainder will keep the Human Life Office, operating and allows it to offer help and guidance for a grassroots lobbying effort employing the life roll cards. The office will also continue to promote the Puzzle Project which is an effort to offer healing and reconciliation to women who have had abortions. We want them to know that we, the Church, love them and long for their return.

In the months ahead, the Courier-Journal will mention dates of information and education programs on the Hatch Human Life Amendment, and the commission urges all diocesan to attend one. If one has time to contribute to the work, the commission can use such help as addressing envelopes, typing, and making and receiving telephone calls. Interested persons are asked to call 328-6400.

The commission believes that "to do nothing is to affirm what is happening." If each lights a small flame by doing a little, the glow of the many small efforts will change the law of the land to one which acknowledges all life as sacred and in the image of God.

going to organizations counseling pregnant women. The commission received \$16,000 to continue its profile efforts in the face of ongoing abortions on demand and euthanasia.

## Educational Programs On Hatch Amendment

Jan. 27 — St. Ambrose, 25 Empire Blvd., Rochester (school), 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 27 — St. Cecilia, 2732 Culver Road, Rochester, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 7 — St. Patrick's, Mendon, 7:30 p.m.

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