PC Approves Hatch

By Martin J. Toombs

Newark - The American bishops' support of the Hatch Amendment is not a weakening of their opposition to all abortions.

Rather, the amendment is a practical way to prevent as many abortions as possible, according to Father James Hewes, Mt. Carmel Parish, Rochester, administrator who has been active in the diocesan Human Life Commission.

Father Hewes discussed the amendment at Saturday's Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting at St. Michael's here.

Proposed by Sen. Orrin

Hatch (R-Utah), the amendment states that no right to abortion is contained in the Constitution. If it is approved by the Congress and three fourths of the states, it would allow Congress and state legislators to pass laws restricting abortions. In case of conflicts the stricter provision would apply.

Meeting last Fall, the U.S. Catholic bishops overwhelmingly supported its

Father Hewes said that in recent months many groups have come forward with their opposition to abortion showing that abortion is not a strictly Catholic issue.

He noted the passage of the a compassionate amendment, although Church." Congress, would enable a simple majority to write abortion restrictions.

Diana Mari (formerly Diane Blum) questioned the support of the amendment, asking Father Hewes if the bishops wanted to stop abortions or criminalize them. "The fact is, abortions will go on," she said. She asked, "Is this the most Christian response to the abortion problem?"

She criticized the Church's support for programs to aid women with troubled pregnancies, and said according to the current diocesan budget statement more money has been allocated for the clown ministry than aid for pregnant women.

She also challenged the cooperation with such groups as Moral Majority. "These are not pro-life people the Church has thrown us in amongst,' she said, noting the many votes of Sen. Hatch opposing social programs and the votes of other anti-abortion legislators against civil rights and equal rights for women.

Father acknowledged that making abortions illegal will not stop abortions any more than laws against child abuse prevent it from happening. Law is a statement of society's values, he said, and will affect society's attitude toward

Father Hewes agreed that some who oppose abortion are not pro-life but it isn't uncommon to find causes which bring people together who agree on only one issue, he

He also cited the Human Life Commission's programs for pregnant women who have had abortions.

"It's very tough," he said, "because we're a prophetic Church, but we're also trying

Bishop Urges Support for Blacks, Indians

On the first weekend of Lent, Feb. 27 and 28, you will be invited to contribute to the National Collection for Black and Native American Missions. This collection is taken up

Last year, the National Council of Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral letter entitled, "Brothers and Sisters to Us." The letter urges each and every diocese to do all it can to eradicate the evils of bigotry and racism in our nation and in our Church. Our response to this call from the bishops is in large measure spearheaded by the ministries that are funded through this collection: the National Office for Black and Native American Missions, the National Office of Black Catholics, and our own diocesan Office of Black Ministries.

The Office of Black Ministries serves our local Church in advocacy, sensitizing and ministry to the poor. It proclaims our our willingness to learn and to serve. It also proclaims our gratitude for the richness of black culture and heritage with which we are graced as Church and as nation.

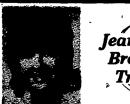
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Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, DD Bishop of Rochester

Robert O'Gara of Owego supported the amendment noting, "We're murdering unborn children by the millions." The discussion is not about morals, he said; 'We are talking about killing.'

The DPC passed the resolution supporting the Hatch Amendment, 21 voting in favor, one opposing, and three abstaining.

The DPC also reveiwed the semiannual reports diocesan departments.



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Polish Fund Nears \$85,000; **CRS Director Praises Diocese** The Tribute to Poland director, who is directing the of these brave people, the

Fund has reached \$84,688, local campaign. according to Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan missions

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In the meantime, Bishop Edwin B. Broderick, executive director of Catholic Relief Services which funnels aid to the people of Poland, has sent a letter to Bishop Matthew H. Clark with his "sincere congratulations" to the people of the Rochester diocese for their "exceptional response."

"In responding to the needs

faithful of Rochester have shown all of us at CRS how a well-organized and properly motivated community comes to the aid of people in distress," Bishop Broderick

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