ith isn't a voting factor

ine years I have been a member of itate Assembly, I have seen a change the separation of church and state. et me express my opinion as to the igious, political, ethical, cultural and

ekground of the members on matters the legislature.

ed a natural tendency to unite among 1 common background and interests. , we have in the Assembly a black ican caucus as well as an Italianslative organization. The purpose of to promote their concerns on issues

ers with specialized talents and expeced on appropriate committees and tilize their expertise.

the Legislature.

n a devout Catholic family, and as a Stephen's Parish in Geneva, N.Y., I is more and more involvement from ic groups and advocates on matters the Assembly affecting the practice atholic people.

ight years I was a member of the As-Committee, I was in constant contact. ide advocate and lobbyist who hapnonsignor. His knowledge and backnealth care field was used effectively the leadership in formulating policy on bills that were brought before the

there are many state-wide and lic conferences and groups that issue emorandums on legislative proposals isions being considered by the state



Insight

and federal governments.

The death penalty, abortion, parental consent for abortion, homelessness and other social issues are a few of the topics that have generated a great deal of contact by various Catholic groups to state and federal representatives.

As an elected member of the New York State Assembly, I feel my responsibility is to all of the people in the 129th Assembly District as well as New York state. I pride myself in having 100 percent attendance for nine years, and in doing so, voting on every bill brought before the assembly.

I support the concept of voting to reflect what I feel is in the best interests of the people I represent.

Before I make a decision on whether to vote for or against a proposal, I try to get as much background on the subject as possible. This may entail many hours of reading material and memorandums, and talking with lobbyists and constituents. My own experience and background is also a factor.

Many times, I am influenced by the debate or by listening and talking to my colleagues before deciding on how to vote.

As a practicing Catholic with Italian background, married with two children and four grandchildren, and as a senior citizen. I try not to let these or any other interests influence my position and vote.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I subscribe to the theory that government is "of the people, for the people, and by the people."

Republican Frank G. Talomie Sr. is serving his fifth term as assemblyman for the 129th Assembly District, which encompasses portions of Wayne and Ontario counties, including Geneva, Canandaigua, Phelps, Victor, Arcadia-Newark, Palmyra and Walworth.

A lifelong Geneva resident except during nearly 15 years with the U.S. Army Air Force, he attends St. Stephen's Parish, where he serves as an usher.

Talomie entered public service in 1956 as assistant court clerk in Canandaigua. Prior to his 1979 election to the state Assembly, Talomie also served as Ontario County commissioner of jurors and county clerk.

Example shaped ideals

By Alfonse M. D'Amato

Guest contributor

The job of a United States senator can be exciting and rewarding. It can also be routine, disappointing, and at times, very difficult. It is an occupation in which decisions are made every day that have significant ramifications on the lives of thousands, even millions of people.

I believe the manner in which individuals are raised weighs heavily on the conduct of their profession, whether it be in business, industry, the service fields, or politics. In that respect, I consider myself very fortunate to have been raised a Catholic.

While I was growing up, my parents and teachers stressed the same philosophy — aim for what is right, not what is easy. Life experience often teaches us that we've done something wrong because it seemed easier at the time. Keeping the above philosophy in mind has always helped steer me in the right direction.

I was very fortunate to have parents, teachers and other role models set a good example for me to do the right thing at various stages of my life. Being raised in a Catholic environment was instrumental in my making the right decisions. Even today, my actions are guided by that simple principle - do the right thing.

Looking back, I think I can safely say my life was

turned around when I attended Chaminade High School, a Catholic institution in Nassau County, where I grew up. The atmosphere that Chaminade provided, and especially the Marianist brothers among the faculty, shaped the person that I am to-

The most important lesson I learned during that time was "service above self," that our lives have fuller purpose when we work for the benefit of others, rather than solely concentrating on ourselves. In a society where self-gratification is a common temptation, I have been well-served by that credo.

There are numerous other themes learned during my high school years that have made deep impressions through the years. Uppermost is the deeply ingrained faith in God that helps me make the right decisions in my professional career — ones that will benefit the people I was elected to serve.

Honesty, compassion, and a sense of fairness were among the other ideals that became ingrained into my way of thinking during high school. Understanding these ideals and their continuous reinforcement by those persons who cared enough to make an impact has kept these beliefs constantly a part of my decision-making process.

As a father, I have passed on these ideals of Catholicism to my children, who will in the years to come teach them to my grandchildren.

As a devout Catholic, I cherish the faith into which I was born. My religious beliefs affect the conduct of my profession and my life in so many ways. Along with all other Catholics similarly affected by their Catholicism, I am very fortunate for

Republican Alfonse M. D'Amato was elected to the U.S. Senate in November, 1980.

Previously, he served as presiding supervisor of the Town of Hempstead, N.Y.

After attending Chaminade High School in Mineola, N.Y., D'Amato earned degrees in business and law from Syracuse University.

A resident of Island Park, N.Y., Senator D'Amato and his wife, Penny, have four children. A parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Island Park, he also belongs to the Knights of Columbus.

'As a practicing Catholic with Italian background, married with two children and four grandchildren, and as a senior citizen, I try not to let these or any other interests influence my position and vote.' Frank G. Talomie

is week's Insight section, the Catholic Courier invited six Catholic is — including men and women who serve the people of the Dio-

Rochester at the local, state and national levels — to write about

ticles on this page are from those who agreed to participate. Their

n on these pages should not be construed as an editorial endorse-

the Catholic Courier, which makes no such endorsements.

ionship between their faith and their political lives.