

# Agenda

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ence's support of a parental consent law for minors having abortions, the conference opposed state-funded abortions, and called for legislation prohibiting abortions based on sex-selection.

The conference also said it sought "passage of laws which treat working women fairly, offer maternity leave and day care, provide housing, health care, education and job training for pregnant women."

**Health care** — Noting the increase in AIDS patients and a state-wide shortage of nurses and other health-care workers, the conference supported, among other things, an increase in the number of health personnel and career-development projects, matching scholarship grants for health professionals and additional funding for salaries in health occupations.

**Human services work force** — The conference called for \$150 million in state funding over the next two years to provide for salary adjustments in voluntary agencies offering child day and foster care, mental health services and services for the mentally retarded, substance and alcohol abuse services and senior citizen services.

The bishops also called for the formation of a state task force to make recommendations for such improvements to the human services work force as regulatory reform and employee benefits.

**School asbestos aid** — The conference wants the state to allocate \$100 million to fund asbestos abatement in public and parochial schools. The bishops noted that the legislature had given public and parochial schools \$25 million last year to conduct as-

bestos testing.

**Public assistance grant increase** — Mildred Shanley of Catholic Charities in Brooklyn urged a 15 percent increase in the state's basic welfare grant to families. The conference also supported increases in the minimum wage, unemployment insurance and disability benefits. Education and job training were included as part of proposals to reform the welfare system.

**Drug and alcohol services** — The bishops asked for increased funding of drug and alcohol service programs. Among their requests, the bishops pressed for increased funding to assist local prevention programs for youth; more monies to cover salary increases of service workers; and funding for alternatives to incarcerating drug offenders.

The bishops received a boost for their pro-life efforts from former Gov. Carey, who said his refusal to support a parental-consent bill during his gubernatorial term stemmed from the advice of an aide. "To my eternal regret as governor, I vetoed parental-consent legislation which came before me," Carey said. "I was convinced then that the bill would not pass the Supreme Court..."

Carey hailed the Supreme Court's July 3 decision in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, which gave states greater latitude to regulate abortion, and he noted that more than half of the states in the union have parental consent laws for minors' abortions.

Although he had once been among their number, the former governor criticized pro-choice Catholic politicians, labeling them "cafeteria Catholics."

"These are Catholics who follow the line of Catholic identity when they run for of-

rice, picking and choosing among the tenets of Catholic doctrine on faith and morals until they get to the pro-abortion check-out counter," Carey said. "Then — if their assortment of beliefs has any pro-life fiber — they are forced to drop the tray or face rejection at the pro-abortion political cash register."

Carey's speech was generally well-received by the audience, although Bishop Matthew H. Clark questioned Carey's use of the term "cafeteria Catholics."

"I think that the term 'cafeteria Catholics' is not ... well-chosen," he said. "It's kind of an emotional term that doesn't encourage people to carry on dialogue."

The bishop said he was pleased with the convention overall, a feeling shared by representatives from the Rochester diocese.

"When we bring in parish folks (the legislators) get to see that real folks make up this church, not just the hierarchy," commented Greg Haehl, the Catholic Family Center's coordinator of legislative advocacy for Monroe and Livingston counties.

Haehl led a five-member lobbying team to the office of Democratic Senator John D. Perry, 54th district. The senator and the group discussed all six of the conference's positions, and the group praised the senator for his opposition to the death penalty, a stance he shares with the state's Catholic bishops.

Nonetheless, Perry, who is pro-choice on abortion, was not swayed by the lobbyists' support of a parental consent law for minors obtaining abortions. Perry questioned the wisdom of passing such a law because it might force minors to appeal to family court for permission to have abortions.

"Why should it have to end up in family court?" Perry asked rhetorically. "Is a family court judge capable of deciding that?"

Despite their disagreements with him, lobbyists were impressed by Perry. "I was impressed that he listened," said Linda Zaleski, president of the Rochester Diocesan Chapter of the State Federation of Catholic School Parents and a member of Haehl's team.

Haehl noted that "most of the state legislators are with us on most of the issues," and added that — while it is unlikely the legislature will pass a parental consent law this session — legislative support for such a law is building.

Whether the forum helps the state conference to obtain its legislative goals is secondary to the unity such day-long events build among Catholics, observed Kathy Dubel, justice and peace coordinator of diocese's Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry.

"(The forums) are effective in the sense that the participants gain a real sense of solidarity with others ... in the community," she said.

## STAR program seeks help

Catholic Family Center's STAR Program needs volunteers to provide assistance to frail, homebound elderly people in Monroe County. Anyone willing to spend an hour each week helping an older person with grocery shopping, transportation to appointments, or visiting should call Mary McGuire, 716/546-7220.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## General

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**THANK YOU:** St. Jude and St. Joseph for favors and for favors to come. E.M.A.

### Cemetery lots 6

**WHITE HAVEN:** Double lot, section M. Must sell. Please call 544-4749.

### Announcements 7

**A WONDERFUL FAMILY:** experience. Australian, European, Scandinavian, Japanese High school-exchange students arriving in August. Become a host family/American Intercultural Student Exchange. Call 1-800-SIBLING. (NYSCAN)

### Miscellaneous 9

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**YOUR 25 WORD:** Classified Ad will run in the New York State Classified Advertising Network (NYSCAN) of 203 weekly newspapers statewide for only \$198. You can also advertise your classified in specific regions (Western, Central and Metro) for only \$145 for two regions and \$80 for one region. Call or visit Catholic Courier 716/328-4340. (NYSCAN)

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## Employment

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Qualified candidates should have extensive managerial experience in human service agencies (preferably Catholic), be knowledgeable about funding sources and proposal preparations, and be able to articulate the Christian mission of the church in working with affiliated decentralized agency directors and boards.

Send in confidence a detailed resume of experience, accomplishments and education to:

Chairman, Search Committee  
Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Albany  
40 North Main Avenue  
Albany, New York 12203

**CHURCH CONSULTANT:** United Church Directories is looking for a self-motivated and success-oriented individual to work full or part-time in a sales/public relations position. You will be contacting area churches of all faiths. Female or male has the same opportunity for achievement. Our 26 years of experience can guide you to success. Advance to start, gas allowance, incentive programs, and expense paid training school. Call 1-800-521-4611 on January 29th & 30th, ask for operator 10.

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#### Excellent Wages for Spare Time Assembly

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## Employment

### Situations wanted 15

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### Business opportunities 16

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### Wanted to Buy 37

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## Property

### Furn. Apartments For Rent 57

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