

Introducing the Catholic Advocacy Network

- The Gospel message of Jesus Christ calls upon Christians to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit the imprisoned.
- Part of this mission is to be involved in legislative advocacy -- seeking to influence the laws that govern us through the democratic process. Our Church has repeatedly urged us to become "informed, active and responsible participants in the political process." (*Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium, November 1999*)
- A new, simple way to do this is through the statewide Catholic Advocacy Network (CAN), an official effort set up by the Catholic Bishops of New York State. CAN is an Internet and Email based network, linking Catholics who are willing to put their faith into action.
- The Network provides members with background information on issues, a regular newsletter, legislative alerts on breaking issues, and the means to contact their elected representatives with the simple click of a mouse.
- Even those who are not connected to the Internet, can still sign up for the Network and receive a free monthly newsletter with information and advocacy alerts.
- The Network can target its alerts to specific legislative districts or dioceses, or even to specific issue areas identified by members as personal interests, such as education or criminal justice issues.
- There is no cost for membership in the Network, and the NYS Catholic Conference will not offer or sell your name to any other lists.
- **His Eminence, Cardinal Egan, has asked every parish in the Archdiocese to participate in a "Sign-up Weekend" for the Network. On November 3 and 4, our parish will give you some more information about the Network, and ask to join.**
- If you don't want to wait for the Sign-up Weekend, go to www.nyscatholic.org today and click on "Join the Network".
- The potential of this Network is enormous: there are 7.5 million Catholics in New York State! In numbers, there is strength. Together, we can make a difference in promoting justice and respect for human life in our society.

