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**OHIO BISHOPS STATEMENT
IN SUPPORT OF ISSUES 1 AND 2 – THE HOUSING AMENDMENTS**

We Catholic bishops of Ohio support the passage of both Issue 1 and Issue 2 – the housing amendments – during this November, 1990 election.

ISSUE 1

Issue 1 will remove constitutional restrictions which currently prohibit Ohio's state and local governments from entering into partnerships with nonprofit and for profit builders and bankers seeking to produce affordable housing.

Issue 1 will allow government housing assistance through grants, loans, subsidies, guarantees, or other means as determined, after passage, by the Ohio General Assembly.

Possible programs which would be developed include down payment assistance for working families, loans for emergency home repairs, and low interest financing to build or rehabilitate affordable housing units.

Forty-six other states currently allow such programs.

ISSUE 2

Issue 2 will permit the surviving spouse, age 60 or older, who previously received a homestead tax reduction, to continue receiving this reduction under most circumstances.

Currently, a resident 65 years or older, or permanently and totally disabled may have the value of their homestead reduced, thus providing a reduction in their homestead tax.

Unfortunately, in many cases the surviving spouse, if not 65 years old, would lose such a reduction.

We encourage our church leaders – clergy, women and men religious, lay ministers and parish volunteers – to cooperate with local educational efforts on these issues.

We further encourage all citizens to prayerfully reflect upon these two important issues.