

A
Positive
Alternative
to



CDL. COOKE

ABORTION

New York — (RNS) — A "positive alternative" to abortion through counseling and medical care — free of charge if necessary — was offered by the Roman Catholic New York archdiocese to pregnant women here.

Called "Birthright," the operation is aimed at women contemplating abortion and offers pre-natal and post-natal medical care, homes for unwed mothers and adoption services. It is one of a mushrooming group of such agencies springing up around the country.

According to a Birthright advertisement appearing in New York area newspapers April 13, "the sole purpose for the existence of Birthright is to give practical, loving help to any worried, pregnant women or girls — regardless of color or creed."

"It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born," the ad stated.

Birthright agencies, attempting to counter trends toward liberalizing state abortion laws, have been started in such cities as Washington, D.C., Toronto, Cleveland, Miami, Detroit and St. Louis, with others in the planning stages. Most are inter-denominational or no-denominational, although they follow the stated Catholic position that abortion is tantamount to murder and strictly forbidden.

In New York state, the Cath-

olic hierarchy has declared that the Church "disowns by immediate excommunication any Catholic who deliberately procures an abortion or helps someone else to do so."

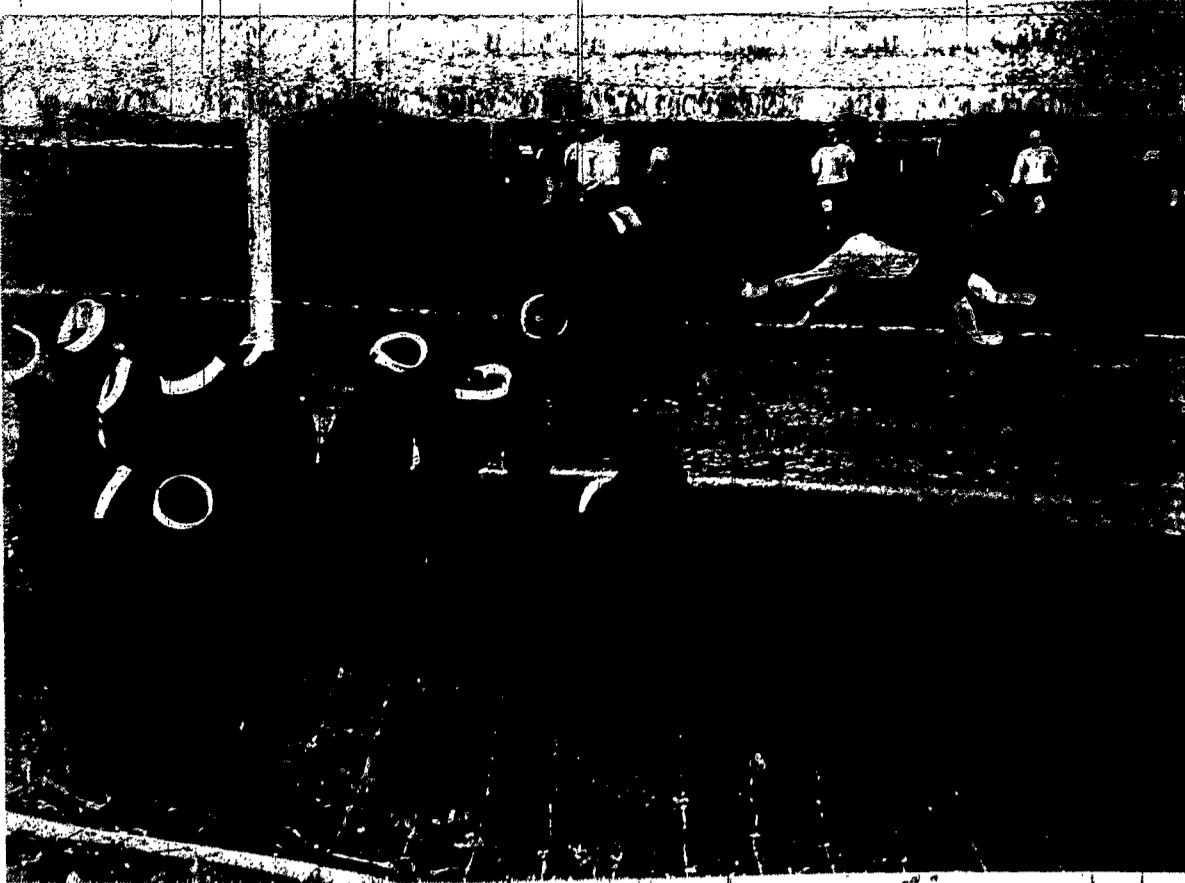
According to state health service figures, there have been more than 100,000 abortions in New York City alone since the liberalized abortion law went into effect last July.

The New York Birthright program was announced by Terence Cardinal Cooke on Easter Sunday. He said it would be accompanied by a large-scale educational and promotional campaign to counter recent "accumulations of publicity" favoring abortion.

The cardinal charged that the liberalized New York abortion law has brought "massive pressures on desperate pregnant girls and women" and the new program would seek to diminish these pressures through offers of "comfort and assistance."

The prelate said the service is being extended on a non-sectarian basis and he appealed to other religious groups who agree with Catholics on "the right to life" to take part in the various aspects of the program.

Noting that human life has already been "devalued," he urged that "we should all vow now to protect its sacredness in whatever circumstances it is discovered. That includes the tiny fetus in the womb."



The 'Devils' Win

It looked good for the Anglican clergy in East London at this point in a recent game against the "Devils"; but the Satanic footballers scored a 5-3 victory against the clerics. (RNS Photograph)

Pope Stresses Importance Of Baptism

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has urged Christians to be more aware of the reality and import of the Sacrament of Baptism.

"Our Christian life must be moulded by our baptism," he said at his customary Wednesday general audience in St. Peter's Basilica.

"Baptism," he told a large group of pilgrims and tourists, "it is not simply a transitory moment, a passing ceremony. It inaugurates a permanent state of being of incomparable good."

"God willing, it is decisive for our salvation," he added.

The Pope observed that "to be a good, strong Christian" is not only possible, but "relatively easy, thanks to the force of the grace of baptism, which is the sanctifying presence of God in our soul, and to the proper exercise of our precious power of free choice."

He said that Christian freedom, "oriented toward God," is a vital expression of "the law of love."

Right to Life Sunday Set

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pupils will receive form letters to take home and get signed. These also will go to legislators.

A pamphlet prepared by the Christophers outlining the legal, sociological and medical, as well as moral, arguments against abortion will be distributed at Masses.

The local committee is planning to bus interested persons from the diocese to Albany to take part in the April 27 rally. Anyone wishing to go should contact Mrs. Muriel Trunfil at 244-4707.

Volunteers also are needed to assist in churches on Right to Life Sunday. Mrs. Pat Edelman should be contacted at 244-3153.

Area coordinators for the letter drive are Fathers Robert Collins (Rochester), Henry Adamski (Elmira) and Joseph Sullivan (Auburn).

'We Are People Who Chose Life'

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choose life that you and your descendants may live". (Deut. 30/19)

With my brother bishops of New York State I designate Sunday, April 25 as 'Right to Life Sunday' to provide the grace of our Corporate Witness in strong affirmation of our reverence for life. Let it be but the beginning of a constant, united effort—a "Choose Life" Campaign that will move our elected representatives to begin to erase the memory of the years of destruction decreed for the unborn in Albany, last year.

A Right to Life Committee was operative in the diocese long before we suffered this blight on the history of a state we once proudly heralded as the Empire State because it seemed to justify the claim to be first in everything good. The best generous efforts of this Committee to bring you to an awareness of the threatening abortion legislation were met then with a feeble response. I hope and pray that it will not be so today.

Your parish priests will be instructing you from the pulpit on the theme 'Reverence for Human Life' and will show you how to make your voices heard in Albany. May they ring out loud and clear—"We are people who have chosen life!"

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Joseph L. Hogan
Bishop of Rochester

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