

Women with Problems Turning to Birthright

Birthright is only three months old but has already handled 95 phone calls and is helping more than 50 distressed women to meet the physical, social or financial dilemmas that pregnancy has imposed on them.

Designed to offer alternatives to abortion, the non-sectarian, non-profit service began operation last July.

Mrs. Nina Trunfio, chairman, explained that Birthright brings together professional agencies, facilities and people needed to help a woman give birth to her child. Her problem may stem from the fact that she is single, or ill and fears the child will be born handicapped.

Birthright volunteers assess the needs of the individual, arrange for counseling, if desired, with social workers, clergy of various denominations, doctors and psychiatric services.

They will arrange appointments with pregnancy testing services, social services such as Northaven, the Monroe County Department of Social Services and Catholic Family Center.

Birthright is a non-sectarian organization of more than 1000 Rochester area residents, including doctors, lawyers, social workers, and clergy of all faiths, whose common concern is to promote respect for human life at all stages.

There are volunteers on duty at the Birthright offices from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. At all times, a record-O-fone device takes all messages, informs the caller when the office will reopen and gives the caller a home phone number of a volunteer for emergency.

The Birthright phone number is 323-8700. Calls are coded for complete privacy and all communications are treated in strict confidence. In order to assure greater privacy for clients, the address of the office is not published. It is given to women who telephone and wish to come in for consultation.

Besides Mrs. Trunfio, other members of the Birthright executive committee are Mrs. J. Barry Jesmer, John P. Des-sauer, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Boylan, Dr. John Kammer and Father Robert G. Miller.

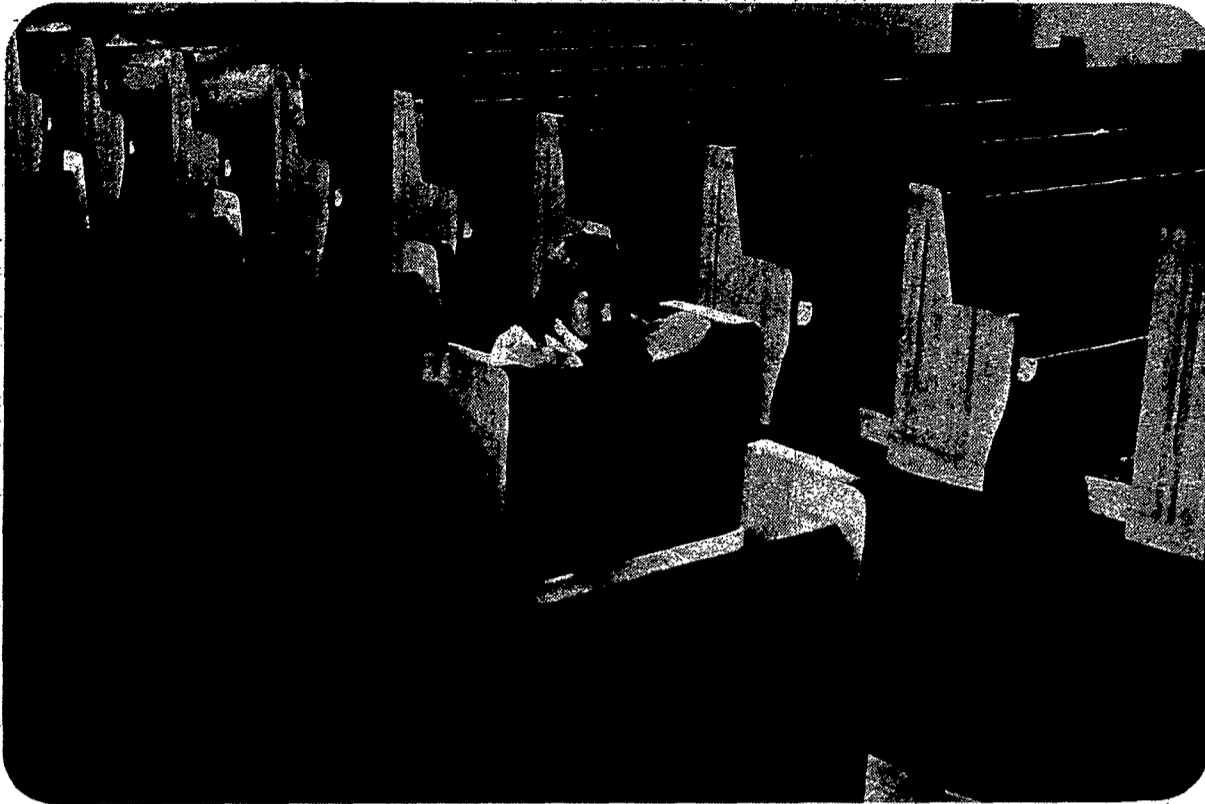


Photo by Laurence E. Keefe.

Pause That Refreshes

Julie West, a pupil at Region 5 Horseheads, takes time from her busy school day to visit the chapel at St. Mary Our Mother School, Horseheads.

New School Board Head Elected in Chemung Co.

By DICK BAUMBACH

Elmira — "We're going to have to pull together to make sure the school system continues to work as it has been."

That's what V. Thomas Agan, newly elected president of the Chemung County Catholic School Board, said recently in an interview with the Courier-Journal.

Agan expressed his views on the direction the school board should take for the rest of the school year saying, "This year the board is going to have to set down its exact programs for the rest of the year, set up firm committee assignments and continue to open up our lines of communications."

As the new president of the school board, Agan said he doesn't plan to introduce any major changes in the organiza-

tion "until I hear of a major problem area and thus far I haven't been given any indication that we have any major problems, everything is working very well."

Agan succeeds Dr. Thomas R. Curran who served as school board president for two years.

The new president spoke highly of the former president, "Dr. Curran did an excellent job in creating and building this school system which came into being on Sept. 8.

"I don't think it could have been done without Dr. Curran's knowledge and his desire to have Catholic education available to Catholic students in Chemung County."

Agan is optimistic about the future of the school system for the next three or four years. "For the rest of this year and

at least for the next three or four years I think we will be in good shape with respect to our projected budget. We have shown that we can make the program work."

Agan will be serving a one-year term as president of the county Catholic school board. For the last 2½ years he has served on the County Catholic School Board as a representative from St. Mary's Southside in Elmira.

He has been a member of the St. Mary's Southside school board for three years and the last two has served as president of that group.

Agan concluded the interview saying, "The one thing I would like to point out is that we are still going to have to rely on contributions from Catholic individuals who want Catholic education for their children."

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Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Friendly Talk

Bishop Hogan talks to Father James Callan, chaplain of Rochester State Hospital, before saying an anniversary Mass in St. Jude's Chapel on the second anniversary of its dedication.

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Holy Rosary Teacher

20 Years in the Front Lines

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Teacher appreciation is one factor of education emphasized during American Education Week — and Mrs. Florentine Rickard, for one, is appreciated by the administration, fellow teachers, students and former students of Holy Rosary School.

"Honey," as she has always been called, is celebrating her 20th year of teaching first grade at Holy Rosary.

"She is a real veteran," notes Sister Virginia Steinwachs, Holy Rosary principal. "She knows more of the families and backgrounds than anyone, and she is also our social organizer for faculty get-togethers."

Mrs. Rickard, who drives daily to Holy Rosary from Brighton, is a vibrant woman who is dedicated to her students, and to Holy Rosary School.

Having been in the business for a long time, she has very strong feelings about the new trends in education.

She feels that the ungraded reading program is a great thing. "In years past the tests and markings were very discouraging. Dropping out really occurs by the third grade and there was a lot of it due to

repeated low marks in reading. Included in the new program is acting out what is read and this prompts verbal discussion which plays a major role in ego development. With the ungraded system every child has a wonderful sense of accomplishment and they are happy with their work."

St. Ambrose Group Aids Rural Poor

Rosarians at St. Ambrose will bring canned foods to their Nov. 8 meeting for Father George Wiant to distribute among the poor of Wayne County.

Father Wiant, of the Secular Mission, spoke at the October meeting and showed slides

depicting the life of migrant farm workers. The immediate result was a voluntary contribution totaling \$112.

Monday's meeting will feature a demonstration of holiday floral arrangements and hand-made gifts.