

'Alternative' Is in Business

Ithaca — Alternative, a volunteer group whose aim is offering aid and counsel to women with unwanted pregnancies, is now in operation in Ithaca and the surrounding area. The agency's information and referral service opened Nov. 17.

Alternative provides a telephone answering service at 273-5433 which refers women with crisis pregnancies to a volunteer who has been trained in counseling and who can also provide information or refer the caller to individuals or agencies that might assist her.

This is a 24-hour service, according to its executive director, Mrs. Marc A. White of Highgate Circle, and women should feel free to call at any time. Volunteers are on duty for 24-hours at a time, remaining within telephone range throughout that period.

Alternative strives to "bring under one cover" information about and referral possibilities to medical doctors, counselors, social agencies, psychiatrists and clergymen in Ithaca and the surrounding area, Mrs. White said. The group hopes also to make available general medical and financial informa-

tion and emotional and spiritual support.

Alternative's goal, Mrs. White said, is to reach a broad range of women who are making decisions about unwanted pregnancies. Its services are not limited to those who have already made the decisions.

Opportunities for callers to meet directly with professionals and to receive counseling will be afforded through the facilities of a downtown office, the location of which will be made known to those seeking help. The nonprofit, nondenominational organization is based on the philosophy of deep respect for the value and sanctity of human life. It strives to offer a pregnant woman an alternative to abortion, hence the motto, "There is an Alternative."

Some 50 members from all areas of the county and from

all religious affiliations are united in a belief in the right to give birth, the right to be born, and the ultimate right of the woman to make her own decision.

The Alternative attitude, Mrs. White said, is "loving and non-judgmental," and confidences are strictly held. The aim, she said, is "to demonstrate a sincere interest in the upgrading of the quality of human life. Members hope to become a voice in the Tompkins County community and to put forth a positive image in order to offer a visible direction for women who are seeking solutions to unwanted pregnancies."

The beginning of the service came after many months of planning. With Mrs. White in the vanguard were Mrs. William A. Wimsatt of Cayuga Park Road, director of recruitment and placement of volunteers; Mrs. Norman D. Dykema, Winthrop Drive, and Mrs. Dean Linscott, Elmwood Avenue, community resources; Mrs. John A. Churey, Dryden Road, office manager; Mrs. John K. Loosli, Hanshaw Road, volunteer training, and Mrs. David J. Martin, Christopher Circle, publicity.

The organization drew on local legal, real estate and public relations counsel in establishing its goals and formulating its program. Training sessions in late summer and throughout the fall included discussions by Ithaca area obstetricians, clergymen and social service personnel as well as members of similar organizations in other cities.

Humanae Vitae Defends Pro-Life Movements

Huntington, Ind. — Pope Paul's encyclical, "Humanae Vitae," is a well-timed defense of man and human freedom against the "anti-life" campaign that is now developing, declared Cardinal John Wright, American-born member of the Roman Curia.

Writing in the Dec. 5 issue of Our Sunday Visitor, national Catholic weekly published here, the prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy said it is already possible to see the "lethal literalness" of the materialist drive against life.

"The battle against contraception, we are told, is long since lost," said the former bishop of Pittsburgh, adding that the "new front is that of abortion."

"The next will assuredly be euthanasia (mercy killing). God knows what euphemism we shall be asked to use for the termination of lives deemed physically, no longer fit, socially no longer useful, mentally, politically or perhaps religiously no longer acceptable."

Cardinal Wright said that "there is no need to discuss whether in our age of democratic phrasing of even totalitarian proposals, euthanasia will be 'voluntary.' It will be as 'voluntary' as the use of contraceptives by the desperately poor who take government-provided contraceptives to get their powdered milk or mother's allotments."

The cardinal asserted the Pope's anti-birth control encyclical issued in 1968 defends the human person against being reduced to a "demographic digit" and argues for "an ennobling sense of responsibility and awareness of the consequences of one's every action."

"Humanae Vitae" is a defense of man as a naturally bisexual being, said Cardinal Wright, "whose dignity rests in large part upon the 'naturalness' of human persons, as their respective male and female powers are received from nature."

The Pope has placed the "magisterium" (Church teaching authority) on the side of man's natural system of reproduction as ultimately superior to "any contrived or perverted alternative," he added.

"Pro-life and pro-person," Cardinal Wright noted, "Pope Paul's encyclical may yet turn out to be also the defense of human sexuality against mere sex."

Voters Choose Two Clergymen

New York—(RNS)—A black Methodist minister was elected mayor of Englewood, N.J., and a Catholic priest who switched political parties was elected mayor of Plattsburgh, N.Y. on Nov. 3.

The Rev. Walter S. Taylor, 54, ran on the Democratic ticket in Englewood. Mr. Taylor, pastor of Galilee Church in Englewood for 19 years, is a member of the city's Urban Renewal Commission and Housing Authority.

Father Roland St. Pierre defeated a Democratic incumbent in Plattsburgh. He resigned as pastor of St. John's parish when he announced his candidacy, and switched from Democrat to Republican to win the dominant party's nomination.

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

In workshops when I show a filmstrip or give a list of possible actions for parish council committees it is almost inevitable that someone will say, "But we are doing most of those things!"

And often it will be the very same person who later complains about the lack of attendance at meetings and the burden of being one among "the few who are always doing everything in the parish."

There is a relationship here that has to be resolved — a leader has to encourage others to be involved and to replace himself (or herself).

One of the items that should be on any parish council leader's list, right after he is elected to office, or given any responsible and continuing assignment, is "Who is going to replace me?"

It is too late to think about this when the nominating committee meets just weeks before an election.

If you begin to think about this question shortly after your election or assignment, you will have a number of candidates in mind months before the election.

Then is the time to begin grooming them for office. They may not be elected or appointed, but that is less important than the fact that you are helping to develop leaders and that the parish will benefit from being able to choose among a number of qualified candidates.

Few things hurt an organization more and hinder the spirit of community than to have to "beg" an unwilling candidate to stand for election or accept a job.

Morale is boosted and interest is developed when there are a number of qualified candi-

dates, with experience, and a spirited contest for offices.

- Share your opinions and attitudes about the job with them. Help them to articulate the Christian service possibilities in the task by speaking of it yourself.

- Motivate them to desire the job, by picturing this Christian service as a possibility for themselves.

- Build their self-confidence to handle the office or assignment by asking them to help you with the job.

For example, it may be the president's job to chair the annual meeting, but you can ask one or two people to chair the committee for the annual meeting.

- Get others to think of your candidates as candidates for the job.

This may be done by publicly acknowledging their participation and leadership in various projects and by presenting their qualifications to the nominating committee.

- Ask them to replace you. If you have become their friend, shared your thinking and experience with them, given them responsibility, and have built their self-confidence, you can easily ask that you be allowed to put their name in nomination or suggest them for the assignment.

- Offer your continued friendship and support.

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