

# Birthright Opens New Office

By John Dash

Seneca Falls — Birthright, the ecumenically sponsored service to pregnant women, has opened an office to aid women here, in Geneva, Waterloo and the surrounding areas.

According to the group's charter document, the guiding principle of Birthright is: "It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born."

The new Birthright office, said Maureen Paccito, is an outgrowth of the concern felt widely in the area that local abortion efforts needed an alternative. While a number of people have been active in pro-life efforts in the area for a number of years, she said, the actual establishment of the local Birthright chapter only came in January of this year.

Pro-tem officers of Birthright are Mrs. Constance Hoffman, Robert Van Sickle, Elizabeth Morocco and Gwen Schlachter.

According to Mrs. Hoffman, the chapter has about 30 active members who support and do volunteer work for the organization on a regular basis.

Among the religious people who support Birthright, she said, are Father Albert Shamon, "really the driving force behind us," pastor of St. Mary's in Waterloo; Rev. Gail Stark Von Wald of the Church of God in Waterloo; Pastor Alvin Hezlep of the Assembly of God in Waterloo; Father Robert Rice, representing the Human Development Committee of St. Francis deSales in Geneva; Pastor Kenneth Crowe,



Staffing the office one day are (left to right) Mrs. Hoffman, La Donna Truax and Dorothy Polzinetti.

Assembly of God in Seneca Falls.

Birthright is trying to raise funds for its operations through such activities as garage sales, food sales, and such events as Walk-a-Thons.

The group also accepts donations of both money and baby clothes and furniture. Volunteers to aid in the operations of the office are encouraged to sign up as well, Mrs. Hoffman stated.

Contact may be made with Birthright any time of day or night, Mrs. Hoffman said, simply by dialing (315) 568-8904.



Maureen Paccito is one of the prime movers in establishing the office for Birthright of Seneca County.

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## Deaths

### Two St. Joseph Sisters Die

**Sr. Marie Pauline Darby**  
**Sr. Vincent Joseph Miles**

The Sisters of St. Joseph who live at the Motherhouse infirmary on East Avenue lost two members of their community on the first two days of May.

Sister Marie Pauline Darby, a housekeeper in the congregation's convents for nearly half a century, died May 1, 1980, at the age of 83.

On May 2, Sister Vincent Joseph Miles died. At 88, she was the oldest alumna of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in Elmira, and recently had celebrated her 60th anniversary in religious life.

Sister Marie Pauline, a native of Avon, joined the congregation in 1922, from St. Agnes Parish. She kept house at Blessed Sacrament convent for 16 years, at St. Ambrose for 19 years, and at St. Anne's, Holy Rosary and Our Lady of Good Counsel for lesser periods.

She leaves two sisters, Mrs. Anne Harrington and Miss Cecilia Darby, both of Rochester, and several nieces.

Fathers Joseph Reinhart and Paul Wohlrab celebrated her Mass of Christian Burial on May 2 in the Motherhouse Chapel.

Sister Vincent Joseph was born in Corning. She was a graduate nurse, working at St. Joseph's when she entered the convent in 1919, from St. Mary's, Corning. She returned to the hospital in 1921 and stayed there until 1979. Her career included the positions of pediatric supervisor and

purchasing agent. In her last two years at the hospital, Sister Vincent Joseph was apostolic visitor to the patients.

She leaves a brother, George Dewey Miles of Big Flats; a sister, Miss Florentine Miles of Elmira, a sister-in-

law, Mrs. Eva Miles of Elmira, and several nieces and nephews.

Her funeral Mass, May 6 in the Motherhouse Chapel, was offered by Father Reinhart and Father Frederick Helfrich. Father Eugene McFarland also was present.

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