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Woman's plea

is in trouble and plain scared is not going to walk up to adults protesting. I'm sure most of you would help if you could, but the frightened teenager doesn't recognize this.

To stop abortion — even if it becomes illegal again - means getting in the trenches. I don't think causing a stir outside these clinics does much other than keeping the issue in the headlines. Yes, this, too, is important, but it is not stopping the slaughter.

Birthright is the answer, but it is not known to the kids as widely as Planned Parenthood. The network among teens once they enter junior high and high school is incredible. If they need something, illegal or not, the information is there for them.

There are so many agencies available to teens these days. Social services wouldn't have dreamed of investigating a well-to-do family 20 years ago. Now there are so many hotlines for the runaway, the alcoholic, the rape victim, etc. These kids are now aware that help is at hand, thank God. Unfortunately, though, I feel the Catholic Church is failing miserably in reaching this sector of their faith community.

We must reach these children, let them know we want to help them. We are not there to judge them.

God has blessed me. I have a wonderful family. I have children now. I'll never know why God has answered my prayers after all I've done in my past. I ended up meeting the most

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

moral and forgiving man. We both returned to the Church within months of meeting each other. Together, we are trying to make a dent in the problems teens face today. We are quite active in our parish. We are familiar with the criticism many volunteers endure. By no means am I trying to do this to the pro-life organization.

This is such an emotional issue for me, and not one I feel I am able to participate in formally, due entirely to my shame. I just hope

that those who believe so strongly in the sanctity of life will bring up my points at their next pro-life meetings and truly examine their merit. If you truly want to stop or significantly reduce the number of successful abortions, I say make yourself accessible. Make the agencies accessible. Advertise a hell of a lot more than an ad in the TV listings. Let the kids know that not only do you feel it's wrong to kill your baby, but that you're willing to help them through the crisis as well.

Becket

Continued from Page 7 fore entering the seminary."

The Becket Hall director pointed out that the diocesan vocations office keeps in touch with the theologates where Rochester seminarians study such as Theological College in Washington, D.C., and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. The seminary rectors, he said, "re-

port back that the men are very well prepared for theology studies."

Father Valenti noted that seminary officials say that not only are Rochester seminarians ready academically, but that the experience of community living at Becket Hall has prepared the future priests for the choice they are

Although Father Tormey agreed with the general thrust of Cardinal Baum's letter, he finds the letter's requirement of two years of formalized training prior to entering the seminary excessive. The Becket Hall program is geared toward older candidates, many of whom come in with a wealth of experience and knowledge. Thus, he noted, each applicant is judged on an individual basis.

"We try to assess the man's background and how much he will need before entering the theologate," Father Valenti said. "Two years might be appropriate in some cases; one year might be enough in others."

Father Tormey also noted that a formalized, structured pre-seminary program is not necessarily the best way to prepare men for ministering in a Church that is changing.

"Priests tomorrow are going to have to deal more collegially with lay people, women in the Church, women in ministry," Father Tormey explained. "I think that's the face of the Church in the 21st century, and our priests have to be prepared for it. That doesn't mean we shortcut their training, their spiritual formation. We just have to train our presbyterate in a new way."

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