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Age 13; St. Joe's Regional Jr Hi; Epping

“‘How would you respond to claims that Pro-Life denies a woman's ‘choice’?’”

Pro-Life doesn't necessarily deny a woman's choice. If anything, it informs a woman about her choice. As Catholics, we believe that life begins at conception and that the value of the baby's life is equal to that of the mother's life. This is the point the Pro-Life movement is trying to exercise. As the Declaration of Independence states, “all men are created equal”. That means all human beings, born or unborn. If the unborn can't represent themselves, who will?

By educating and counseling women, you can teach them other alternatives to abortion and help them deal with an unwanted pregnancy. When faced with an unwanted pregnancy, some women might panic, and quickly think getting an abortion is the best decision when there are, in fact, other alternatives, such as adoption. In many cases, women are left with feelings of shame and guilt, some even depression, after getting an abortion, when if they knew of other choices, it could be completely avoided. A life could be saved just by teaching a woman some of her other options and identify resources to help support her in a time of need. And who knows, that baby could live to be a future president of the United States, or a civil rights activist, or a doctor. Everyone deserves a chance at life, even if they can't advocate for it themselves.

Sometimes religion and law do not see eye to eye. But when it comes to taking a life, it seems that Pro-Life and Pro-Choice should be more closely aligned. Taking a life, is taking a life. I don't think there should be any gray area when it comes to that. I feel that if there was more education and support around different options, other than abortion, many women would make a different choice, not only for their

baby but for themselves as well. These choices could result not only in saving the baby's life but prevent the woman from ruining her own.