

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE: A HIGHLIGHT ON

Creating a Culture of Love and Life

Hello fellow parishioners! Last October we celebrated Dobb's overturn of Roe v Wade and looked at the abortion issue through a new lens: the moral vs the legal. Since then, the forces of evil have been hard at work in each state to expand the Culture of Death. We Christians are at war --a war of the culture of death and hate vs a culture of life and love. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has reminded us of the two powerful tools we have, and bids us to use them in this battle. They are the tools Christians have always had. They are Christ's Law of love, and the powerful models of Mary's acceptance of motherhood and Joseph's courageous, steadfast protection and support of her. They are our guides, our inspiration, and the intercessors in this battle.



The Life Monument
by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz

In answer to Saint John Paul II's call in *Evangelium Vitae* to establish a culture of life based on the dignity of every human person, the USCCB has devised a program to create what Pope Francis calls "Islands of Mercy" in each parish for moms in need. The program sees each parish becoming a center of welcome and refuge, a place to go for help, when moms see no path except abortion. This is not a new tool. It is the very tool that has been used to combat the evil of the time throughout the ages: Christian love. It is who we are; our identity as Christians. The goal is to educate all parishioners so that everyone knows the resources available to help moms so that the Church is seen as a place of help and love, and abortion becomes unthinkable.

Together with God's help and the intercession of Mary and Joseph, let us create at Saint Joseph's an "Island of Mercy" that shines as a beacon of light in the sea of death and darkness surrounding us. It is up to us! In the words of Saint Teresa of Avila:

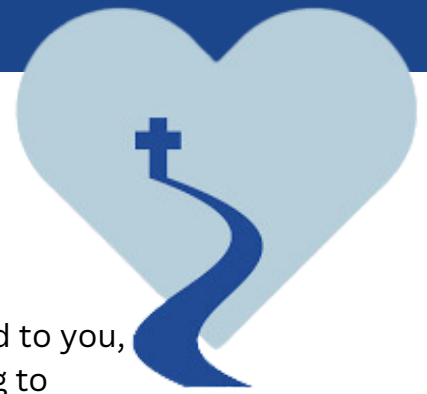
"Christ has no body now, but yours, no hands no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on the world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world."

With the prophet Samuel will you answer God's call and say, "Here I am, Lord... I will go Lord, if you guide me... I will hold your mothers in my hands."

PLEASE PRAY FOR MOMS AND FOR SAINT JOSEPH PARISH TO ANSWER THE USCCB'S CALL.

PLEASE SIGN THE SUPPORT NETWORK CONTACT SHEET IN THE NARTHEX.

Start Walking with *Moms* in Need today!



If a woman with an unexpected or challenging pregnancy turned to you, would you know what help is available? Could a mom struggling to care for her young children turn to our Church and find local assistance?

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be “islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference.” Everyone in our parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.

Our parish is joining a nationwide effort entitled: “Walking with Moms in Need.” As part of this initiative our parish will undertake a yearlong process to assess, expand, and better communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in our local community. Through Walking With Moms in Need, Catholics can help vulnerable women find support through welcoming and caring for their children.

WHAT IS IT?

Walking with Moms in Need offers a simple process for Catholics and their parishes to:

- Find out what help is available to local women who are pregnant or parenting in difficult circumstances;
- Identify what types of support are missing;
- Determine how their Church can be part of strengthening the local support network for moms in need.

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

- To build a culture of life in each parish based on the dignity of every human person
- To inspire each parish to build a support network providing a climate of welcome
- To educate parishioners so that everyone knows how to help women and babies
- To help people see the Church as a place of help
- To involve more people in volunteering to ease the burden on parish staff and finances
- “Through the combined effort of parishes, to move closer to the day when every pregnant mother in need knows where to turn, and abortion is simply unthinkable.”

WE INVITE ALL PARISHIONERS TO JOIN US AS WE EMBARK ON THIS EFFORT TO SERVE MOTHERS IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE NEWS AND UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT OUR TABLE IN THE NARTHEX AND SIGN OUR SUPPORT NETWORK CONTACT LIST.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED, including answers to most frequently asked questions, visit WalkingWithMoms.com.