

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE: A HIGHLIGHT ON

Creating a Culture of Love and Life

Hello fellow parishioners! Last October we introduced Walking with Moms in Need, the USCCB-designed program to establish a Culture of Life and Love in each parish to combat the growing Culture of Death and hate spreading throughout the country. With the goal to create “Islands of Mercy” in each parish based on the dignity of every person, the parish becomes a center of welcome and refuge, a place to go for help when pregnant women can see no path except abortion or when mothers are struggling to support their children. Our tools in this endeavor are the tools Christians have relied on throughout the ages to combat the evil of the time: Christian love and prayer. This is our identity; it is who we are. The focus of this program is on us as parishioners volunteering to implement and carry out the phases of the program so that everyone knows how to help women and save babies and abortion becomes unthinkable.



The Life Monument
by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz

In Phases One and Two we asked you to join us by praying and by becoming part of our support network to make Saint Joseph Parish an island of mercy that shines as a beacon of light in the sea of darkness. Saint Joseph Parish responded enthusiastically with many volunteers offering their time and talents. With your help, we have conducted an inventory of local services available and identified gaps. A concise summary of those results is provided on the reverse side of this page.

To complete the final phase, devising a plan of how we at Saint Joseph can help fill those gaps, we need the help of not only our support network, but we also need to engage as many parishioners as possible to garner the creative ideas needed to fulfil this task.

We would like to invite you to a structured, interactive problem-solving meeting:

MEETING GOAL:	Brainstorm ways to help moms in need by filling the the gaps of support identified in the Inventory Phase; generate elements that will become a solution plan
DATE:	October 24, 2024
TIME:	7-8 PM
LOCATION:	cafeteria in the Parish Life and Education Center

WILL YOU BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION?

LIKE THE PROPHET SAMUEL, WILL YOU SAY, “HERE I AM LORD... I WILL GO, LORD, IF YOU GUIDE ME”? I WILL HOLD YOU MOTHERS IN MY HANDS.

PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX and ATTEND ON OCTOBER 24.



INVENTORY PHASE SUMMARY

PREGNANCY HELP RELATED SERVICES

pregnancy centers.....	5
mobile ultra-sound.....	1
private medical practices (pro-life).....	2
hospitals (pro-life).....	2
maternity homes.....	1
mother-child support: education/health.....	6
post-abortion counseling.....	3

GENERAL HELP RELATED SERVICES

counseling (pro-life).....	11
material support	9
housing.....	5
substance abuse.....	3
child care.....	1
job training.....	3
adoption.....	3
family/parenting education.....	9
legal support (pro-life).....	3

GAPS

Communication (parish and diocese)

- to moms about parish help
- to parishioners about resources

Affordable child care (non-poverty level)

Fatherhood programs

- importance of father's role in abortion decision
- importance of father's role as parent/family

Education

- biological/health related facts
- moral: sanctity of human life (life as gift)