



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
RESPECT LIFE



Archdiocese of New York

Walking with Moms in Need - Parish Action Guide

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 the parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need. The intention of *Walking with Moms in Need* is to increase our outreach to pregnant and parenting women facing difficulties.

Here in the Archdiocese of New York, we want to support our parish communities in the process of participating in *Walking with Moms in Need* and implementing creative parish responses to meet the needs of local pregnant and parenting mothers. We invite you to utilize this Parish Action Guide and to work with us to connect mothers with supportive people and resources in their area!

Phase 1: Introduce *Walking with Moms in Need* and Build Core Team

- **Appoint Parish Coordinator(s)**
The WWMIN Parish Coordinator(s) serves as the main point of contact for the core team, communicating with the pastor and Respect Life Office.
- **Assemble Core Team**
The WWMIN Core Team will meet regularly and work together to complete various steps in the process, including the parish inventory, resource brochure, and the discernment and implementation of a parish response.

Phase 2: Launch Inventory Process

- **Review Inventory Tool**
The inventory tool provides a framework and structure to help your parish think about the various resources that a mother in need may find helpful. Using the inventory tool, each parish is asked to identify the local pregnancy help resources in their community that are currently available to a woman facing a difficult pregnancy.
- **Begin Inventory Process**
The purpose of the inventory process is to find out what resources are available and allow you to assess these resources and identify possible gaps. Through site visits, phone calls, and research, begin filling out the parish inventory. You may want to divide up different sections and assign them to core team members to research and report back to the group. Once the information has been gathered, both individually and as a group, compile everything into the inventory form.
- **Review and Evaluate Inventory Results**
Gather with your core team to review and assess the results of your completed parish inventory. During this time, you will evaluate the current resources, identify gaps, and discuss how help is currently communicated to women in need.

Phase 3: Create Resource Brochure

- **Create Resource Brochure**

From the information gathered in your completed parish inventory, compile the list of local resources for mothers in need into a brochure.

- **Distribute Resource Brochure**

Distribute the Resource Brochure to areas in your parish and local community where it will be available for women who are pregnant and parenting, to raise awareness about these resources and provide their contact information. You may also want to put the Resource Brochure on your parish website and make announcements about it in the parish bulletin.

Phase 4: Discern and Announce Parish Response

- **Discern Parish Response**

Based on the local needs and resource gaps identified in the inventory process, discern what your parish's response to support pregnant and parenting mothers will be.

- *Is there a local pregnancy center that needs volunteers and financial support?*
- *Does your parish want to start a maternity/baby storeroom or diaper bank?*
- *Does the women's group want to host a baby shower for a pregnant mother in your parish?*
- *Is there a young mother who needs babysitters or help driving her children to school?*

Based on the creativity and gifts of your parishioners, decide how your parish will respond.

- **Announce Parish Response**

Announce how your parish will be actively involved in Walking with Moms in Need, and invite parishioners to participate in these efforts.

Phase 5: Implement Parish Response

- **Implement Parish Response**

Implement your parish response, and continue to reach out to pregnant and parenting mothers in your local community!

Prayer

Throughout each phase of the *Walking with Moms in Need* process, be sure to pray together as a core team and local community, so that the Holy Spirit will inspire and guide your efforts! You can use the "[Prayer for Pregnant Mothers](#)", as well as the sample intercessions from the *Walking with Moms in Need* website.

Contact the Respect Life Office!

We are here to support you in your efforts! Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have:

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