



Fact Sheet for Parish Respect Life Teams

in the Diocese of Rockford

March 2022

Because we were created in God's image, all human life is sacred. As a people of God, we must witness to this sacredness. In a time when the Supreme Court is considering the legal protection of the unborn, the Church is redoubling efforts to accompany parents who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, offering them loving and compassionate care.

The Rockford Diocese invites you to join a national initiative, "Walking with Moms in Need," sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This parish-based process encourages parishioners to connect with local mothers facing difficult pregnancies, identifying local resources and filling the gaps so that families can receive necessary material, spiritual, and emotional support.

There are three parts of Walking with Moms in Need in the Rockford Diocese:

1. Disseminating a local inventory of pregnancy and other resources for moms in crisis

The diocesan Life and Family Evangelization (LiFE) Office with the assistance of the Parish Respect Life Coordinators will compile this inventory. The diocese will send this finalized inventory to all priests and Respect Life Coordinators for further dissemination. The inventory will also be posted at: www.rockforddiocese.org/life/walking-with-moms. The aim is to get these resources into the hands of moms and dads in crisis.

2. Evaluating local gaps to better meet the needs of expectant parents in crisis

The diocese will provide all parishes with a reflection, "How Are We a People of Life?" This will assist pastors, staff, Respect Life committees, and all parishioners in discernment of what more we can do for parents in crisis. We encourage you to implement with the highest priority these additions in your parish ministries. This reflection is posted at:

www.rockforddiocese.org/life/parish/walking-with-moms.

3. Praying in our parishes for expectant parents in crisis during May 2022

The diocese will provide all parishes with prayers of the faithful and other prayer resources. Visit www.rockforddiocese.org/life/parish/walking-with-moms for these resources.

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How Can Parish Respect Life Committees Help?

- If you have been asked to help the diocese compile the list of pregnancy resources in your area, please try to complete this as soon as possible. If you have received a draft list from the diocese for review, please check this list and return any comments by early April 2022.
- Make sure the final list of resources is given to your pastor, receptionist/parish secretary, St. Vincent DePaul society, etc.
- Share communications from the diocese for parish bulletins with your bulletin editors.
- Ask your pastor to consider adding prayers of the faithful for expectant mothers in need during the month of May 2022.
- As a committee, complete the reflection, “How Are We a People of Life?” to discern the successes, challenges, and opportunities for your ministry. Help to implement a priority list of opportunities to accompany expectant parents in need. Encourage other parishioners to complete this reflection as well.
- Review the Fact Sheet for Parishioners for more ideas on how to accompany parents in need.

For additional guidance, contact the LiFE Office at life@rockforddiocese.org.

