

not alone. The message to the blind man is for us and to share with others: “Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you.” Example:

- **Melissa, a North Carolina mom**³ with young children and a busy job, attended a parish informational session for **Walking with Moms in Need**, thinking she might help out here and there. But she felt the Lord’s call and “by the end of the session she had volunteered to be the ministry’s coordinator.” Her parish now holds “Hand Up Days” once a month during which families can “shop” free of charge for baby and toddler items they need that have been donated by parishioners.
- Melissa shared some powerful words of encouragement: “I think for too long we have been comfortable leaving the work of accompanying women in crisis situations—pregnant or parenting—to others in the nonprofit and government sectors. It is very clear in the Gospel that this is our job - all of us! A woman in a pregnancy center once told me that most women considering abortion are wrestling with a financial matter less than \$250 and that has really stuck with me. If we can lighten the burden just a little, what a difference we can make—it is literally life or death.”



1 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, nos. 1, 2.

2 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, no. 28.

3 Elizabeth Ascik, “One of the Best Ways to Walk with Moms in Need,” *Aleteia*, March 23, 2023, <https://aleteia.org/2023/03/22/one-of-the-best-ways-to-walk-with-moms-in-need/>.

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