

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 kids turn to your neighborhood Catholic church and find local assistance?

Through *Walking with Moms in Need*, Catholics can help pregnant or parenting women in difficult circumstances find support in welcoming and caring for their children.

With the help of others at your parish, <u>YOU</u> can make a difference in your community.

With well over 17,000 parishes in the United States, the Catholic Church is uniquely positioned to encourage a collaboration of resources at the local level and to increase awareness of help available to mothers and families in need.

## Learn more: www.WalkingWithMoms.com



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Supporting pregnant and parenting mothers in need

## VISION

Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need.

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It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs.

Everyone in the parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.





## **OVERVIEW**

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our communities.

Walking with Moms in Need offers a simple process for Catholic 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 parish can be part of strengthening the local support network for moms in need.

In addition to supporting local pregnancy help centers where they exist, parishes can develop their own resources for mothers in need based on the gifts of the parish community.

## INSPIRATION

Walking with Moms in Need was launched by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on March 25, 2020, in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life).

In that landmark encyclical, Pope St. John Paul II challenged the Church:

"With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth". (EV 95)

Pope Francis has likewise reminded us that our parishes are called to be "islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference."

