



March 1, 2021

Dear Brothers in Christ:

I am writing concerning a new initiative of the USCCB: ***Walking with Moms in Need-a Year of Service***. Information was previously sent last fall. This program was to have been launched last year in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of St. Pope John Paul II's Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. It was halted due to the pandemic and then relaunched last fall. The program looks to initiate in parishes programs that will assist single and parenting moms in difficult circumstances and to provide tools and resources that will enable parishioners and parish staff to assist moms struggling with unexpected pregnancies or single moms enduring hardships. The hope is that these moms will find in the parish community a warm welcome and people who will stand with them and provide the concrete assistance and accompaniment they need.

In the Dallas Diocese, Bishop Burns has blessed and charged our Respect Life Ministry, the Catholic Pro-Life Community (CPLC), to direct and assist our parishes in this effort, to provide a full and generous response to this program and assure that it becomes a viable parish ministry in each parish.

Initial communications last fall from Bishop Burns and the CPLC outlined action phases that, by year-end, will render this program established and in-use. The first phase of the program asks for pastors to select a parish leader who will assemble a parish core team to help complete a parish inventory of resources that would be useful to pregnant and parenting moms. The CPLC has already supplied parishes with the diocesan inventory of resources as a starting point.

One important note about this inventory: it should consist of programs and resources your parish is able to provide during "normal" times, **not now while we're under COVID protocols**. If you limit it only to what you can provide under COVID protocols, the inventory will be skewed.

Once this inventory is complete, please return it to the CPLC. They will compile all resources identified in the inventories submitted and communicate next steps.

For more information on this initiative, please contact Susan Platt at the CPLC, 972-267-5433, or splatt@prolifedallas.org.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory Kelly".

Bishop Gregory Kelly VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Dallas