



## SUMMARY OF STEPS IN THE PROCESS OF SERVICE

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Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes should be “islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.” Everyone in the parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need. Called by St. John Paul II to be a part of *The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae)*, we are inspired to examine our efforts in building a culture of life and to increase our outreach and service to pregnant and parenting women who need our help.

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Parishes across the country, through the support of their bishops and pastors, are joining an effort to assess the help that is already available, expand those resources where there are gaps in support, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families who need a wide range of assistance. This nationwide effort, from November 2020 to November 2021 in the Diocese of Dallas is ***Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service***.

Through this yearlong initiative, parishes are asked to **complete a simple inventory of resources available in their local area, assess the results and identify gaps, and plan and implement a parish response based on their findings**. The Year of Service is broken up into five phases of parish action. These five phases include:

- **Phase 1:** Announce *Year of Service* and Begin Building a Core Team (Nov 2020).
- **Phase 2:** Launch Parish Inventory Process (Jan 2021)
- **Phase 3:** Share Inventory Results and Begin Assessment and Planning (May 2021)
- **Phase 4:** Announce and Commit to Parish Response (Sept 2021)
- **Phase 5:** Celebrate and Implement Parish Plans (Nov 2021)

Pastors have all received packets with information on the following:

- **Inventory of Resources compiled by the Diocese and CPLC**  
Parishes should assess resources available to moms and discern how to best share the information linked here: [An Inventory of Local Pregnancy Help Resources](#) (diocese-wide resources are already included in the inventory);
- **Online Survey regarding specific parish resources to be completed by pastors, staff and volunteers.** This survey will help identify Respect Life ministries and activities within each parish [A Parish Respect Life Survey](#)

## PHASE 2

### LAUNCH PARISH INVENTORY PROCESS JANUARY 2021

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Here is a list of simple steps to guide you through Phase 2 of the *Year of Service*. These steps offer ideas on how to use the provided materials to begin the inventory process in your parish community. Feel free to adjust and adapt as needed. During Phase 2, parishes will continue to assemble their core teams through personal invitations and expand their parish support network. Opportunity to participate in a donation drive is included in this phase. Phase 2 also launches the parish inventory process.

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**1. Host the first meeting with your core team.**

Once your core team has been assembled, begin thinking about when your team can gather for the first time. Consult members about their availability and what days and times generally work best with their schedules. Begin thinking about your agenda and what you might hope to accomplish in this initial gathering. (See “[Hosting a Meeting](#)” for ideas and tips for planning your first gathering.)

**2. Resources and information from your diocese.** If your parish has not completed and submitted the CPLC survey, please do so as soon as possible. The Diocese of Dallas has completed its own inventory and has provided a list of resources available to the pastors in the diocese.

**3. Review the inventory tool.**

[An Inventory of Local Pregnancy Help Resources](#) provides a framework to help your parish think about the various resources in your area 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. The needs of pregnant and parenting moms can be overwhelming, and the sources for help may not be apparent to those most needing support. Take time to familiarize yourself with [An Inventory of Local Pregnancy Help Resources](#)

**4. Begin the inventory process.**

The purpose of the inventory process is to find out what resources are currently 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. (See “[Completing the Parish Inventory](#)” for more detailed instructions.)

**5. Participate in the Walking with Moms in Need diaper/baby wipe drive** by collecting donations at your parish, if possible. Drop off individual and parish donations before the Roe Memorial Mass at 10:00am on Jan 16 at the Cathedral. (Mass is at 10:30am.)

**6. Pray for pregnant mothers in need as core team and a parish community.**

Use the opportunity in core team meetings to pray the [“Prayer for Pregnant Mothers”](#) together. Ask your pastor to permit a volunteer to lead the prayer before Sunday Masses, perhaps once a month. Encourage regular use of the prayer by parishioners. Ask for the inclusion of intercessions for pregnant mothers in the Prayer of the Faithful during Sunday Masses (Sample intercessions are available in the full [Parish Action Guide](#) )