



## 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)

**In Preparation for Phase 1**, 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 1

## ANNOUNCE YEAR OF SERVICE AND BEGIN BUILDING A CORE TEAM NOVEMBER 2020

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Here is a list of simple steps to guide you through Phase 1 of the Year of Service. These steps offer ideas for getting started in your parish community. Feel free to adjust and adapt as needed. During Phase 1, pastors are asked to select a parish leader who will then assemble a parish core team to help complete the parish inventory and related tasks.

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**1. Appoint a parish leader.**

The pastor of each participating parish is asked to appoint a parish leader for the *Year of Service*. The parish leader acts as a main point of contact and coordinator. Pastors can find tips and suggestions for filling this role in "[Selecting a Parish Leader](#)"

**2. Begin assembling a parish core team.**

Once a parish leader has been selected, he or she, with the guidance of the pastor, can begin assembling a parish core team. The team will meet throughout the *Year of Service* and complete various tasks, including the parish inventory, assessment, and response planning and implementation. More detailed information can be found in "[Building a Parish Core Team.](#)"

**3. Establishing a parish support network.**

In addition to assembling a core team, you will also want to begin establishing a broader group to help support the *Year of Service*. In the beginning stages of the project, you will likely only need assistance from your core team. However, as the project grows and develops, you will likely need wider parish support. Establishing a simple support network allows you to inspire broader parish involvement and enlist assistance during later phases of the *Year of Service*. (See the full [Parish Action Guide](#) for details.)

**4. Announce the *Year of Service* and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Evangelium Vitae* during 2020.**

Encourage your pastor, priests, and deacons to include the announcement of the *Year of Service* in connection with St. John Paul II's *The Gospel of Life*. (Sample announcements and homily notes are available in the full [Parish Action Guide](#) )

**5. Pray for pregnant mothers in need as a parish community.**

When announcing the *Year of Service*, use this opportunity to pray the "[Prayer for Pregnant Mothers](#)" together as a community and to encourage regular use of the prayer. Include intercessions for pregnant mothers in the Prayer of the Faithful during Sunday Masses (Sample intercessions are available in the full [Parish Action Guide](#) )

**6. Begin planning your first core team meeting.**

Even if your core team is not fully assembled, begin thinking about when your team can gather for the first time. Consult current members of the core team 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.