



What is Walking with Moms in Need?

Walking with Moms in Need is a USCCB nationwide initiative in which Catholic parishes and communities "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need. Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods and this initiative is unique in that it asks every Catholic parish to prayerfully place themselves in the shoes of a mother in need and walk with her throughout the difficulties and challenges she faces.

While not trying to turn Catholic parishes into pregnancy centers, we can support local pregnancy centers where they exist, and we can also find and share other resources with pregnant and parenting women. And where there are few local resources, we can create our own, based on the gifts of the parish community!

As the Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas, Bishop Burns has charged the Catholic Pro-Life Community to provide assistance, resources, or whatever is needed to bring WWMIN to your parish.

Is it too late for my diocese or parish to participate in Walking with Moms in Need?

Absolutely not! While Walking with Moms in Need officially launched on March 25, 2020, COVID-19 made it almost impossible for most dioceses and parishes to implement Walking with Moms according to the original timeline. Many dioceses were forced to indefinitely delay their launch of Walking with Moms, and are only now beginning to launch or relaunch this initiative. If you have yet to begin Walking with Moms, there is plenty of time to bring it to your parish or diocese!

How do I encourage my pastor to bring Walking with Moms to my parish?

As we know, our priests—and especially our pastors—are often overwhelmed by the sheer number of responsibilities entrusted to them and the claims on their time. And in the wake of COVID-19, many parishes are facing additional strains in terms of financial resources. In the midst of these challenges, it can be difficult to suggest that your pastor take on a new initiative.

However, Walking with Moms in Need is designed to require minimal time from the pastor and does not require any financial commitment from the parish. The Parish Action Guide is designed to guide even a new parish leader through every step of the process. While we certainly encourage pastors to be as involved as possible, he only needs to appoint a parish leader and give his approval to get the program started. Walking with Moms in Need can be fully implemented through lay, volunteer leadership, with simple pastor approval at key stages in the process.

We suggest asking for a few minutes to sit down with your pastor and explain the initiative to him. Volunteer to lead this effort at your parish or to support the leader he appoints. Emphasize that the process requires a very minimal time commitment from him. Ask what obstacles or concerns he sees in implementing Walking with Moms, and ask how you and CPLC can help your parish overcome them.

How do I get started?

- Talk to your pastor. Share information about Walking with Moms in Need with him and share your interest in bringing it to your parish.
- Once you have received his approval, check out the Parish Action Guide for step-by-step instructions on how to get started.
- The Parish Guide lists five Phases:
 - Phase 1: Introduce Walking with Moms and Begin Building a Core Team
 - Phase 2: Launch Parish Inventory Process
 - Phase 3: Share Inventory Results and Begin Assessment and Planning
 - Phase 4: Announce and Commit to Parish Response
 - Phase 5: Celebrate and Implement Parish Plans
- **DON'T GET OVERWHELMED** – just concentrate initially on building a good team
- Once your team is established, complete the parish survey (attached) and inventory any “local” resources not included in the diocesan-wide inventory of resources already completed by the CPLC (attached).
- It is most important that you return the Parish Survey and Inventory to CPLC as soon as possible. This can also be done online at www.prolifedallas.org/resources

Again, we are here to help! Please reach out to us. We will be updating you via:

- Monthly Parish Pro-Life Coordinator e-mailer (distributed via email to you at the first of each month)
- Parish Pro-Life Coordinator meetings – next one is in November.
- Phone calls or emails

For more information, visit:

Prolifedallas.org/resources

USCCB -- walkingwithmoms.com