



Fact Sheet for Priests

in the Diocese of Rockford

March 2022

Because we were created in God's image, all human life is sacred. As a people of God, we must witness to this sacredness. In a time when the Supreme Court is considering the legal protection of the unborn, the Church is redoubling efforts to accompany parents who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, offering them loving and compassionate care.

The Rockford Diocese invites you to join a national initiative, "Walking with Moms in Need," sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This parish-based process encourages parishioners to connect with local mothers facing difficult pregnancies, identifying local resources and filling the gaps so that families can receive necessary material, spiritual, and emotional support.

There are three parts of Walking with Moms in Need in the Rockford Diocese:

1. Disseminating a local inventory of pregnancy and other resources for moms in crisis

The diocesan Life and Family Evangelization (LiFE) Office with the assistance of the Parish Respect Life Coordinators will compile this inventory. The diocese will send this finalized inventory to all priests and Respect Life Coordinators for further dissemination. The inventory will also be posted at: www.rockforddiocese.org/life/walking-with-moms. The aim is to get these resources into the hands of moms and dads in crisis.

2. Evaluating local gaps to better meet the needs of expectant parents in crisis

The diocese will provide all parishes with a reflection, "How Are We a People of Life?" This will assist pastors, staff, Respect Life committees, and all parishioners in discernment of what more we can do for parents in crisis. We encourage you to implement with the highest priority these additions in your parish ministries. This reflection is posted at:

www.rockforddiocese.org/life/parish/walking-with-moms.

3. Praying in our parishes for expectant parents in crisis during May 2022

The diocese will provide all parishes with prayers of the faithful and other prayer resources. Visit www.rockforddiocese.org/life/parish/walking-with-moms for these resources.

Over

How Can the Priests and Pastors of the Rockford Diocese Help?

- Prayerfully consider Bishop Malloy's March 11, 2022, letter to the priests of the diocese asking for your help to ensure that mothers in the diocese see the Church as a place of compassionate support and assistance by joining the diocese in *Walking with Moms in Need*. If you need another copy of the letter, please contact Therese Stahl, director of the LiFE Office at tstahl@rockforddiocese.org.
- Consider adding prayers of the faithful for expectant moms in need to Masses during the May 2022.
- Be on the lookout for the inventory of local pregnancy resources that the LiFE Office will be sending to you in April. Make sure this list is given to your receptionist/parish secretary, Christian Service staff or volunteers, St. Vincent DePaul society, etc.
- Alert your bulletin editors to reprint items from the LiFE Office targeted to parents in need.
- Encourage your staff, Christian Service committee, Respect Life committee, and all parishioners to complete the reflection, "How Are We a People of Life?" This will help you discern the successes, challenges, and opportunities for this ministry. Implement the discerned priority list.
- If you have the funds, order the USCCB Prayer Card "A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers" in English and Spanish at: www.walkingwithmoms.com/prayer-for-pregnant-mothers.

For additional guidance, contact the LiFE Office at life@rockforddiocese.org or visit the USCCB Walking with Moms' website: <https://www.walkingwithmoms.com/>.

