

ABOUT

Walking with Moms in Need



Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to 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.

The 25th anniversary of *Evangelium vitae* gave us a wonderful opportunity to begin to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. Parishes are invited, through the support of their bishop and pastor, to join this nationwide effort entitled, *Walking with Moms in Need*.

Holy Spirit Parish Christ the King Mission

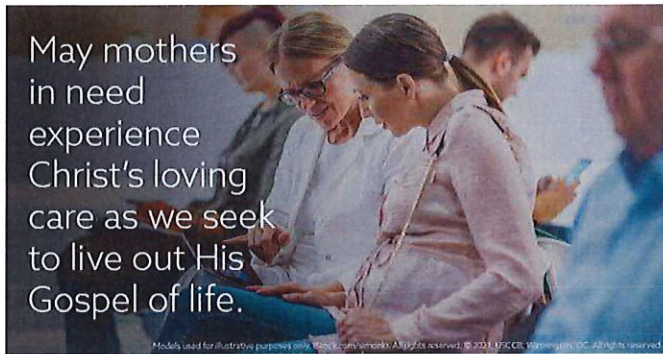
Walking with
Moms in Need

| Pray for *Moms*



INTERCEDE

May mothers
in need
experience
Christ's loving
care as we seek
to live out His
Gospel of life.



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

Over twenty-five years ago, Pope St. John Paul II wrote that the Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' saving message to the world (*Evangelium vitae* 1). In taking on human flesh, dwelling among us, and sacrificing his very life for our redemption, Christ reveals the profound dignity of every human person. Jesus calls each of us to "care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible" (EV 87). The Gospel of life is intrinsic to the whole Christian life and foundational to the decisions we make on a daily basis. For, "the Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel" (EV 2).

Let us reflect on how we personally live out the Gospel: *Do I help pregnant and parenting mothers in need? If a friend became pregnant in challenging circumstances, would she know she could come to me for loving support for her and her baby? Do I know of the places in my community where she could receive material help if she needed it?*

Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, may Our Lord grant us the grace to truly and courageously live his Gospel of life.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Seek Our Lady's intercession by praying a Rosary for the featured intention. (uscbb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary)
- Give up coffee, sweets, or snacks for a week.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Read a brief summary of *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*) at respectlife.org/gospel-of-life-summary.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each October, the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month and offers new resources and reflections on embracing the Gospel of life. Learn more at respectlife.org/celebrate.

**For More Information
Contact Church Office
(228) 283-5252**

Excerpts from *Evangelium vitae* © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area:

www.WalkingWithMoms.com

The Truth About **Abortion** & **Women's Health**

Abortion does not save women's lives.

Abortion is the **direct** and **intentional** killing of a child in the womb.

Abortion is never medically necessary. It does not treat or solve any pregnancy-related complication.

Outlawing abortion will not affect treatment for miscarriage.

Treatment for miscarriage and abortion is not the same thing.

There is a complete moral and legal difference between losing a child through miscarriage and intentionally taking the life of a child.

In the tragic case of miscarriage, surgery may be necessary—and is an ethical treatment—to remove the remains of an unborn child who has already died.

While the same surgery is done to perform an abortion, abortions impose this procedure on a living child with the **intention** of ending his or her life.

Women can get the lifesaving treatments they need—without abortion.

In rare cases, and in the absence of better alternatives, life-threatening maternal health conditions may require interventions that **indirectly** and **unintentionally** lead to the death of an unborn child. **Abortion restrictions will not prevent women from receiving these treatments.**

When the lives of mother and child are in immediate danger, the goal is to fight to save both patients. **Effective treatments exist that seek to save the life of the mother and never to intentionally harm her unborn child.**

When a woman's life is at risk in pregnancy, preterm delivery may be used as a lifesaving medical intervention to preserve the life of both mother and child.¹

Ectopic pregnancies result when an embryo implants outside the uterus—often in the fallopian tube. Sadly, such embryos cannot survive and this condition can pose serious risks to the mother. While ectopic pregnancies sometimes resolve naturally, interventions are often necessary.

When done ethically, treatment for an ectopic pregnancy is not abortion. Ethical interventions include the removal of the damaged fallopian tube containing the embryo or, if embryo death has already occurred, medication can be used to resolve the ectopic pregnancy.

Bottom line: Abortion restrictions never prevent women from receiving life-saving treatment.²

If you or someone you know is struggling after involvement in an abortion, the Church offers confidential, compassionate help through Project Rachel Ministry. Visit www.hopeafterabortion.org for more information.

Copyright © 2022, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

¹ Buskmiller, C. 2018. "The ethics of interstitial and cesarean scar ectopic pregnancies: four case studies and a review of the literature". The Linacre Quarterly 85(3): 252-269.
² For further information on these topics, reference: [1] National Catholic Bioethics Center, "Medical Interventions During Pregnancy in Light of Dobbs," <https://www.ncbcenter.org/ncbc-news/bioethics-public-policy-report-august-12-2022-ezqx2>. [2] American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, "Myth vs. Fact: Correcting Misinformation on Maternal Medical Care," https://aaplog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/AAPLOG-Myth-v-Fact_v5.pdf.