

Walking with  
*Moms* in Need



# Meeting for Parish Delegates

Archdiocese of Omaha  
November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# Agenda

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- Welcome & Opening Prayer
- What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?
- What does abortion look Like in Omaha?
- Proposed Parish Responses
- Q&A and Discussion
- Conclusion and Closing Prayer

# A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

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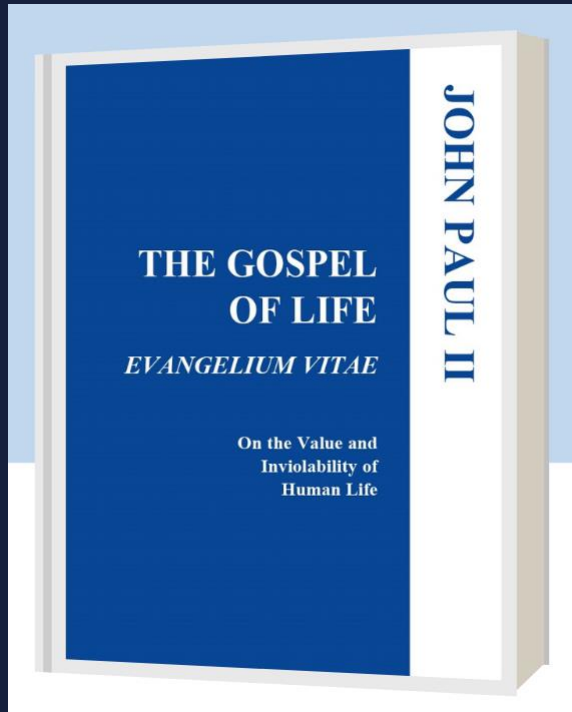
O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

# What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?

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- On **March 25, 2020**, the Church celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*).
- Written by **Pope St. John Paul II**, this prophetic document reaffirmed the Church’s constant teaching on the value of every human life.

# What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?

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- In honor of this anniversary, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting parishes, through the support of their bishops and pastors, to join a **nationwide effort** entitled: “**Walking with Moms in Need.**”
- *Walking with Moms in Need* is a process in which Catholic parishes and communities “**walk in the shoes**” of local pregnant and parenting women in need.



# What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?

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- **Everyone should know how to help moms in difficult circumstances.**
- While I’m not trying to turn Catholic parishes into pregnancy centers, we can identify and share local 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! (special collections, Knights of Columbus, etc.)*



# What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?

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- We know that pregnant and parenting moms in need are already in our parishes, our schools, or Rel Ed programs, in our pews, and our neighborhoods, but in desperation, they may be turning to other places for help.
- As **Pope Francis** reminds us, our parishes need to be “islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.”
- This initiative is asking our parish to become an “island of mercy.”



# What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?

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- Women facing challenging pregnancies should see the Church as a place where they can find help. It should be the first place they go.
- We need to honestly assess the pastoral and practical assistance that we currently provide to pregnant moms and families in need. *How effective are we in communicating such help?*
- The U.S. bishops are providing educational, pastoral, and action-oriented resources to help us answer these questions and **go to the peripheries** and **bring hope and help to mothers in need.**





# What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?

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In the *Gospel of Life*, St. John Paul II challenged us:

“With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination, we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth.”  
(EV 95)



# Walking with Moms in Our Parish

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- In answer to the calls of St. Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis, our parish delegates, staffs, and all those in the pews are called to love and welcome local pregnant and parenting women in need.
- We can accomplish this best in conjunction with EPS, Catholic Charities and many others.



# Essential Pregnancy Services Servings Moms in Need Since 1973

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Essential Pregnancy Services exists to provide life-affirming, holistic support to women experiencing unexpected or under-supported pregnancies.



# EPS Core Values

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- Life-Affirming
- Honest and Authentic
- Compassionate
- Respectful



# Samaria's Story

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# Nebraska Statistical Report of Abortions 2021

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- 2,360 in 2021; 2378 in 2020
- 26 is age at which abortions occurred most frequently  
96.0 abortions per 1,000 live births
- 1,655 (70.2%) were first abortions
- 1,410 (60%) already had at least one live birth before  
abortion
- 1,709 (72.4%) were chemical abortions

# How Does EPS Help Moms in Need?

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## Testing Services

Locations: Maple Village (3029 N. 93<sup>rd</sup> St., Omaha) Bellevue (908 Mission Ave, Bellevue)

- Under Dr. Nick Steinaur's medical license and provided by licensed, trained nurses
- Medical-grade urine pregnancy tests
- 1<sup>st</sup> trimester limited obstetric ultrasounds
- Pregnancy options education
- STD testing/treatment for syphilis and chlamydia
- Prenatal vitamins
- Referrals for prolife obstetric care and abortion-pill reversal
- Visit [www.essentialps.org](http://www.essentialps.org) for testing center hours or call 402-554-1000



# How Does EPS Help Moms in Need?

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## Life Services

Location: 3161 N. 93<sup>rd</sup> St., Omaha, in Catholic Charities St. Teresa Campus

- Free professional counseling/behavioral health services provided by state-licensed mental health providers
- Mom and baby items (clothing, equipment, diapers, formula) through EPS Boutique
- Parenting and life skills classes, both online and in person
- Community Connections/Case Management to connect moms and families with EPS and values-aligned community resources
- Food pantry partnership with Catholic Charities
- One-time financial assistance





# Contacting EPS

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- For testing services: go to [www.essentialps.org](http://www.essentialps.org) or call 402-554-1000
- For Life Services/Community Connections, contact Emily Zach, Community Connections Program Coordinator, at [ezach@essentialps.org](mailto:ezach@essentialps.org) or call Emily at 531-239-3128
- Donor Website: [www.friendsofeps.org](http://www.friendsofeps.org)



# Proposed Parish Responses

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- Create guidelines for those whom a person with an unplanned pregnancy might encounter if they walk in the door and need help or have questions. (Parish Staffs, etc.)
- First: be kind and reassuring!! Live Mercy!!!! How can I help?
- Women need compassion, not judgment, when they walk into a church setting.
- Things like “thank you for coming to us.” can go a long way to building good relationships. Refer them to the parish leader. Call EPS when they are there. Get their information, so the parish leader can call, and we can follow-up in the future.



# Proposed Parish Responses

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- Create a list of guidelines for all parish leaders.
- Parish Leaders need to be the initial point of contact for services.
- Be kind and reassuring. Be welcoming and we can tell you how to do the rest. Questions to ask like, “what is your most immediate need?”
- Resources to have. What can we offer?
- People to call for resources. EPS, Mater Filias, Bethlehem House, Sancta Familia Medical, St. Paul VI Institute, Catholic Charities, etc.

# Proposed Parish Responses

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- Above all: Keep it simple. No one should be overwhelmed.
- Try to get it down to one phone call. This should not be an overwhelming ministry for one couple or person. Leaders can call EPS's Community Connections Coordinator, who will then meet with the women to access their needs. This person is like a Case Management Director.

# Q&A and Discussion

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- Questions?
- Comments?
- Ideas?

# Conclusion

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- Thank you for your time, attention, and support.
- We need your help!
- If you haven't done so already, be sure to sign-up to stay informed and get updates on volunteer opportunities.
- Join us in praying for mothers in.



# Closing Prayer

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God of Infinite Goodness, watch over expectant mothers as they await the birth of their child. Grant these women confidence and strength to dispel their anxiety and fear. Bless them with the courage and faith of Mary, always listening to your will and trusting in your loving care. As they prepare to bring new life into the world, grace them with good health and great joy. We look to you and your Son, Jesus Christ, as a sign of mercy and joy. We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes in the name of your Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN.

