



The Gabriel Project®

Parish based crisis pregnancy intervention within the Catholic Church

The Gabriel Angel and Resource Manual

By

Marcella Colbert, MB, MRCPsych, DPM
Director, Respect Life Office, Archdiocese of Galveston- Houston, Texas

&

Ann Bierschank, BSc,
Director, Office of Respect for Life, Diocese of Austin, Texas

The Gabriel Project® National Office

The Gabriel Project® is Dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe



Mother and Patroness of the Unborn
Star of the New Evangelization
Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God!

In the sixth month, the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the Angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the Angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man? And the Angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

And Mary said: "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." With that the Angel left her.

Thereupon Mary set out, proceeding in haste into the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out in a loud voice: "Blest are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb. But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby leapt in my womb for joy. Blest is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled.'" Luke 1:11-45



GABRIEL ANGEL DAILY PRAYER

Dear Jesus,
I come to you this morning in supplication,
and ask, humbly to enter your Heart of Divine Love,
with (mom's name) the mother you have
bound to my life, and entrusted to my care,
in your name.

Lord, I am not able to love her like you do,
I am not able to provide for her like you can.
I have nothing good to offer her but You,
who alone are all good, and every blessing to her.

And so Good Shepherd,
please protect her and deliver her from evil this day.
Supply her every need this day, according to
your merciful and kind providence, and bountiful generosity.

Let her experience your infinite tenderness
and gentleness towards mothers and children.

Bind her to you with cords of love, and may
her path today be fragrant with your loving kindness.
And at the end of this day, as at the end of her life,
Enfold her in your eternal embrace in peace.

And now Lord I bring (mom's name) specific needs to you,
for your loving attention.
(Name any specific intentions)
Thank you Lord for hearing my prayers.
Amen.

The Gabriel Project® National Office

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2002 2:24 PM

To: mcolbert@diogh.org

Subject: Gabriel Project®

Re: December 12, 2002

To: Diocesan Pro-Life/Respect Life Directors

From: Gail Quinn

Gabriel Project® National Office

The Gabriel Project® is a parish-based apostolate that reaches out to pregnant women in need. Undoubtedly, many of you are familiar with the Gabriel Project®, and many of you have a Gabriel Project® in your diocese.

On this feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I am pleased to announce the beginning of the Gabriel Project® National Office. The Respect Life Offices in the Dioceses of Austin (Ann Bier-schenk, Director) and Galveston-Houston (Dr. Marcella Colbert, Director) are working collaboratively on developing this national effort.

Networking present Gabriel Projects® is the first step that will be taken by the new national effort to bring the love of Jesus to pregnant women in need. To this end, it is important that dioceses with Gabriel Projects® be identified so they may be included in the archives for the web site being developing by the Gabriel Project® National Office. The web address will be HYPERLINK <http://thegabrielproject.org>.

The Gabriel Project® National Office can be reached at **1-866-4 an angel**. Please call them if you have a Gabriel Project®. I know Ann and Marcella will also welcome any ideas or comments you may have in regard to developing this national effort. The Gabriel Project® National Office will also make information available to those who wish to learn more about the Gabriel Project®.

For myself, and on behalf of Ann and Marcella, I want to thank you for your help in this regard. We pray that this new national effort which brings Our Lord's love and compassion to women in need, will also touch hearts and reach minds as we all work to bring about a Culture of Life.

USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat

Table of Contents

What is the Gabriel Project®?

Evangelization and Respect for Life	10
Practical Help	11
What is Gabriel Project®	12
Gabriel Project® Mission Statement	13
Acknowledgements	14
How to Get Organized	15
Different Tasks & Aptitudes Needed from Volunteers	16
Criteria for Gabriel Angels	17
Gabriel Project® Parish Meetings	18
Gabriel Project® Volunteer Procedures	19

Role of the Angel

Keeping Spiritually Fit

Taking Inventory—Self Examination	20
Prayer and Worship	20
Made in His Image	20
We Cannot Give What We Do Not Possess	21
A Privilege to Serve	21
Motivations/Attitudes	21
Practical Spiritual Preparation for a Visit	22

Conversation and Listening Skills

The Confidential Intake Form	23
Conversation	23
Reconciliation and Healing	24-25

How is the Gabriel Project® Implemented in the Parish?

Permission from Your Pastor	26
Introduction to the Entire Parish—Gabriel Sunday	26
The Sign of Life and Other Necessary Materials	27
Angel Training	27
Finances	27
Monthly Support Meetings	27
Major Catholic Support Services	28
The Michaels	29
Help from the Parish	29
Stewardship	29
Transportation	30
Commitment	30
Commissioning of Volunteer and Angels	30

Table of Contents

How Does the Gabriel Project® Work?

The Initial Call	31
The Central Phone Line	31
Yellow Page Ad	31
Meeting with Mom	31
Listen to Mom’s Story	31
Assessing Mom’s Needs	32
To Do List/Schedule Next Meeting	32
The Confidential Intake Form	32
The Greater Community	33

Gabriel Project® Resources

Phone Intake Sheet for Volunteers	34
Angel Check List	35
Fax Cover Sheet	36
Brochure	37
Bumper Stickers	37
Gabriel Project® Sign of Life	37
Billboard Signs	37
The Gabriel Angel and Resource Manual	37
Gabriel Project® Bulletin Inserts	37
Project Rachel Inserts	37
Samples	38-39
Pro-Life Prayers and Reflections for Mothers and Babies	40

Major Support Services—Archdiocesan

Mother and Baby Assistance	41
Large Items for Gabriel Project® Form	42
How to Organize a Baby Shower	43
Parish Baby Shower for Mothers in Need	44
The Elizabeth Support Group	45
Project Rachel	46
Fertility Awareness & Natural Family Planning	47-49

Major Support Services—Christus Health

Program Outline	50
Program Procedures	51
Contact List for Christus St. John	52
Pre-Term Labor Prevention	53
Medical Clinics	54

Table of Contents

Major Support Services—Catholic Charities

Parish Social Ministry	55
What About Adoption?	56-57

Special Services

Society of St. Vincent de Paul	58-59
Food Pantries	60
Housing and Shelters-Catholic	61-62
Housing and Shelters-Non-Catholic	62
Thrift Shops	63
Texas Works Overview	64

How the Angel Protects Mom

Obtaining WIC and Other Benefits	65
CareNet and Crisis Pregnancy Centers	65
When Mom is Abused	65
When Mom is a Minor	66
When a Minor Mom is Being Forced to Have An Abortion	66
Finding Support for Mom	66
What if the Abortion is Already Scheduled?	66
When a Minor Becomes a Runaway	67
Family Reconciliation	67
When Mom Speaks Only Spanish	67
When Mom Wants an Abortion	67
What about Adoption?	67
Working with Mom's Support System	68
Developing a Relationship with Mary	68
When Mom Needs a Place to Stay	68
When Mom Needs Monetary Assistance	68

When Mom Wants to Talk About Her Fertility

Fertility Awareness & Natural Family Planning (NFP)	69
Methods	69
Chastity	69

Table of Contents

Referrals/Legal Issues

Knowing Our Limitations	70
Confidentiality	70
Release Forms	71

Telephone Volunteers

Telephone Volunteers	72
Guidelines for Answering the Telephone	73
Telephone Volunteer Flyer	74
Easy to Use Spanish Phrases	75
Telephone Instructions—for Telephone Volunteers Only	76

Community Fundraising Opportunities

Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program	77
	78

Archdiocesan Organization

External Organization	79
Internal Organization	80
Parishes by Vicariate and Deanery	81-82

What is Abortion? How Abortions are Done

Fertility in Women	83
Normal Pregnancy	83
Contraception as an Abortifacient	83
Chemical Abortion	83
Abortion Pill	83
Suction Aspiration	83
D & C Abortion	84
D&E Abortion	84
Saline Injection	84
D&X Abortion	84
Hysterectomy	84
Invitro Fertilization	84
Selective Reduction Abortion	84
Complication of Abortion for Mom	85
Delayed Complications of Abortion for Mom	85

Table of Contents

Addressing Difficult Issues

Minors Who Are Forced To Have An Abortion	86
When Mom Wants to Abort Her Child	87
What Can You Do?	87
Abortion and Canon Law	88-89
Rape, Emergency Contraception and the Church	90
Reconciliation and Healing in our Work for Life	91

Conversation

Successful Conversation	92
Active Listening	93
Interpretive Listening	93
Asking Questions	94
Reconciliation and Healing	94-95

The Madonnina 96

Additional Flyers 97-98

Evangelization and Respect for Life

Respect for Life is at the heart of the new evangelization. The sacredness of human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death is a central part of the Christian message. It is God who gives life and only He may take life.

In response to the current disregard for the value of human life, the Bishops' document "*The Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities*" 1975, revised 1985 is the guideline for implementing, in dioceses and parishes, all the programs in education, pastoral care and legislative change needed to overcome this evil.

Respecting life is a work of evangelization where the church, in truth and love, presents a challenge to the moral disorder of our time and the terrible suffering of so many caught up in a way of life unfit for the human person.

The majority of the programs are parish based to encourage solidarity, subsidiary, and collaborative ministry among parishioners. Respect for life is for all people and all groups in the parish which leads to multiple programs/activities all with one end. An outreach through pastoral care programs, meeting people where they suffer, offering them hope and healing is the primary endeavor. Education and legislative change follow.

Practical Help

Practical pastoral care programs overcome evil by doing good. They reach out to others where they are in their suffering to give the practical help they need and the opportunity to be reconciled with the Church. They evangelize by approaching Christ in others.

- **Gabriel Project®.** Parish based crisis pregnancy intervention. The parish adopts and takes personal interest in and care of a pregnant mother. Call 713-225-5826. See brochures in English and Spanish.
- **Mother and Baby Assistance.** Parish showers for mothers in need held in each parish. Collect material goods for mother and baby, cribs, car seats, clothing, layettes, etc. Adjunct to the Gabriel Project®. Call 713-225-5826. See brochures in English and Spanish.
- **Project Rachel** Confidential outreach and care for women and men who have had or been involved in abortion. Offers reconciliation and healing and hope. Call 713-741-8728. See brochure.
- **Courage** Confidential spiritual support group helping men and women to live chaste lives in accordance with the Church's pastoral teaching on homosexuality. For more information call 713-741-8728.
- **EnCourage** Confidential spiritual support group for the parents and families of homosexuals. For more information call 713-741-8728.
- **Natural Family Planning** offers couples knowledge of their own fertility so that together they may plan their families in accordance with God's law of love and life. NFP is 99% effective in achieving or avoiding pregnancy, the most effective method available. Call Joe DeVet 713-683-8544. See brochures in English and Spanish.
- **Youth for Life, Justice and Peace** service projects for parish youth groups, high school and confirmation groups. Helps the unborn, pregnant women, mother and babies, immigrants and refugees, the mentally ill, the indigent, the aged, the homeless, the imprisoned and the dying. Call 713-741-8728. See appendix for description and brochure.

What is the Gabriel Project®?

Following the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision in 1973 which made abortion legally permissible in all the States, the Rev. Msgr. John Perusina, late pastor of St. Michael Parish on Sage Road, Houston, put a sign outside the rectory which said: If you will have your baby, this parish will help you in every way. The original sign still stands today.

This was the beginning of the Gabriel Project®. In 1990, Cathy McConn from St. Cecilia Parish in Houston and her friend, Rex Moses from Corpus Christi, saw the sign, and the Gabriel Project® was developed throughout the Galveston-Houston and the Corpus Christi Dioceses.

The Gabriel Project® is parish based crisis pregnancy intervention within the Catholic Church. Through the parish acting as the Good Samaritan, Mom receives the love, care, and spiritual, material, and emotional support she needs throughout her pregnancy.

The parish community responds to Mom with unconditional love. A “Sign of Life” is placed in front of the church stating that help is available to pregnant women. A trained mentor, the parish Gabriel Angel, is responsible for ongoing contact with Mom, through out her pregnancy and beyond.

The is the manifestation of God’s love to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. This love is a witness of the infinite and healing love of God. The is the work of the Holy Spirit; and through pastoral care evangelizes and educates.

The Gabriel Project® works collaboratively with other Apostolates and Ministries in the Parish and within the diocese. Once Mom has met with her Angel, her **crisis** is over although her problems are not. It will take some time to help Mom work out her difficulties.

The Gabriel Project® is **not** an emergency service. All emergencies must go directly to the local emergency room or to the police.

The Gabriel Project® is grounded in prayer and seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The most important gift we have to offer Mom is the gift of Christ Our Lord. Always pray with her and for her. Let her know how precious she and her unborn baby are to the Lord. Never be afraid to speak the truth in love. Do not condemn or preach to her, but lovingly let her know what wonderful graces the Lord has to offer. Remember if the Angel does not have a strong faith, and close relationship with God, it will be hard to share it with someone else. ***We cannot share what we do not have.***

We remain motivated out of love and mercy for the woman. If we love her as Christ loves her, seeing Christ in her, we will be serving her unborn child in the same way. We will never be manipulative or harsh in our speech. The Angel will always give good information, loving guidance, and suggestions. Mom will make the important decisions that affect her and her child’s life and she will be the one who lives with the consequences. We will encourage her to choose a future of life and love for herself and her baby without ever coercing her.

The Gabriel Project® Mission Statement

Indeed, the Lord Jesus, when He prayed to the Father, “that all may be one...as we are one”(Jn 17:21-22) opened up vistas closed to human reason, for He implied a certain likeness between the union of the divine Persons, and the unity of God’s sons in truth and charity. This likeness reveals that man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.

Gaudium et Spes (24)

The Gabriel Project® is a Pro-Life movement offering parish-based pastoral care to women in a crisis pregnancy. Gabriel volunteers

- Understand their apostolate as a work of **Evangelization**, meeting those who suffer where they are, helping them to come to the Church for help and support. The Volunteer brings Christ to Mom in her own person. The volunteer meets Christ in Mom's person.
- Illustrate and live out the **like-with-like** apostolate of the laity through an apostolate of friendship and of presence, relying on their own special gifts. *Apostolicam actusitatem, Decree of the Apostolate of Lay People. Vatican II*
- Encourage **collaborative ministry** working in solidarity with all the other ministries and apostolates in the parish and Diocese, i.e., parish social ministry, Catholic Charities, CHRISTUS HealthCare, etc.
- Are drawn **closer to God**, through acts of self giving to others and through a greater reliance on prayer and worship in their own lives.
- Offer the opportunity for **personal and sacramental reconciliation** and healing so needed by so many today. *Dives in Misericordia, John Paul II*
- Implement *The Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life* through this pastoral response to pregnant mothers in need and their unborn children.

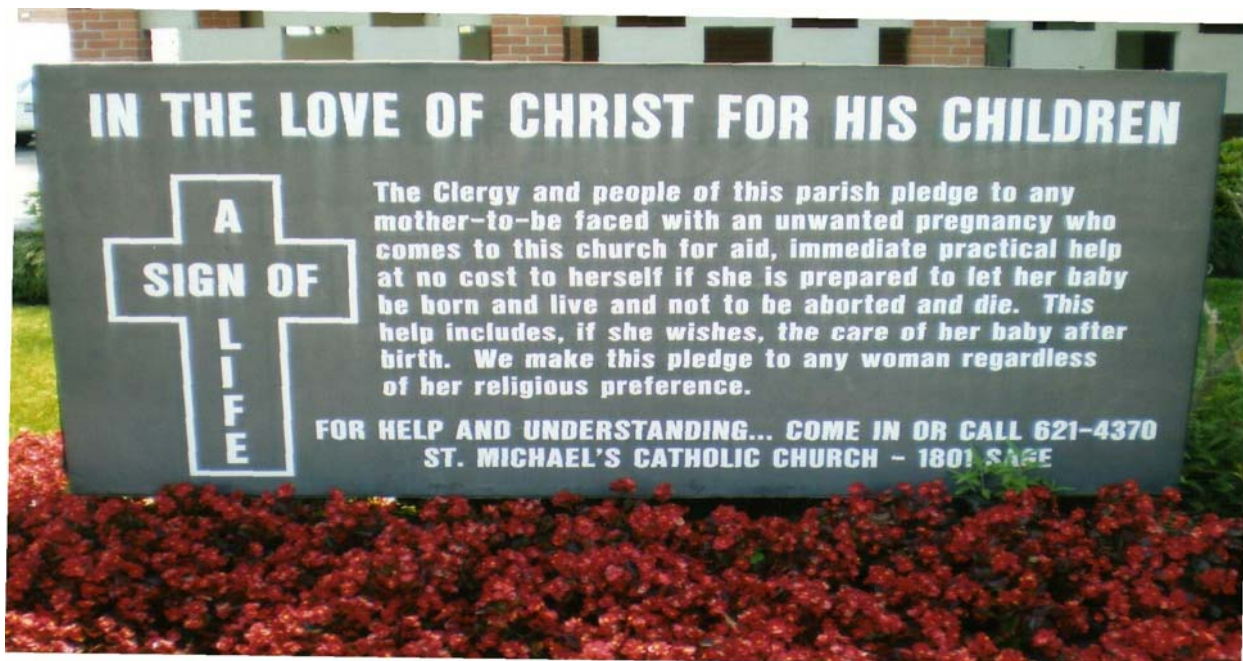
Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge the support and encouragement for the Gabriel Project® by

The Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza, D.D.
Archbishop Emeritus of Galveston-Houston

With wisdom and foresight he saw the value of the apostolate from the earliest time. He encouraged us to develop this program and without his blessings it would not have succeeded.

Following the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision in 1973 which made abortion legally permissible in all States, the Rev. Msgr. John Perusina, late pastor of St. Michael Parish on Sage Road, put a sign outside the rectory which said: If you will have your baby, this parish will help you in every way. The original sign still stands today.



This was the beginning of the Gabriel Project®. In 1990, Cathy McConn from St. Cecilia Parish and her friend, Rex Moses from Corpus Christi, saw the sign, and the Gabriel Project® was developed throughout the Galveston-Houston and the Corpus Christi dioceses.

The Gabriel Project® is now throughout the U.S. and Canada. May God bless these wonderful people.

How to Get Organized

The Respect Life Director Dr. Marcella Colbert 713-741-8728 will come to the parish to outline the programs as will the Archdiocesan Gabriel Coordinator Cathy McConn 713-741-8729

The pastor must approve the creation of the parish Gabriel Project® which is part of the Respect Life Group in the Parish. The pastor will appoint a Gabriel Parish Coordinator. The establishment of the Parish Gabriel Group usually goes before the parish council.

Once the coordinator is appointed, advertise for members to join the group

- by pastor promotion
- at mass
- through fliers and bulletin announcements

Remember, The Gabriel Project® under the Respect Life Group, is a parish initiative, include **everyone and every group** in the parish in the program.

Some groups in the parish to include:

Knights of Columbus
Catholic Daughters
Young Mothers club
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Parish Social Ministry
Natural Family Planning
Youth Groups
Catholic School Children
Legion of Mary
Familia
Knights of Peter Clever
Ladies Auxiliary
Guadalupanos

If there are other Groups in your parish, contact them.

A group of parishioners is needed to run the Gabriel Project® successfully. The many tasks can be delegated to those who have the talent and aptitude needed. **All groups in the parish must be approached. Volunteers should work in two's as Christ sent his disciples. All volunteers must attend the Gabriel Project® Angel Training and the quarterly workshops. They should also attend the Certificate in Life, Justice and Peace Sessions to better understand the Church's teachings on life.**

Different Tasks and Aptitudes Needed from Volunteers

All the groups mentioned above should be contacted to help with these or any other tasks.

The Gabriel Angels

Intake sheets
Meetings with mothers at parish
Coming to understand mothers needs

The Baby Shower

Making cakes and punch
Set up and decorate tables
Organize, store, make layettes and distribute goods
Gabriel Voucher System
Tax free Documentation for large donations

Transport

Mom to Clinics, appointments etc.
Pick up and erect signs

Publicity Gabriel Project®

Making and erecting parish signs
Brochures
Announcements in bulletin
Announcements from altar

Publicity Project

Flip card always discreetly available for parishioners in Church, Ladies and Gentlemen's Restrooms
Announcements in bulletin
Posters

Publicity Baby Shower

Announcements in bulletin
Posters
Fliers in bulletin

Benefits from State

Parish Social Ministry
WIC
TANF
Food Stamps
Medicare

Food & Shelter

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Medical Help

Criteria for admittance to Christus Health for indigent and uninsured women

Professional Social Services for pregnant minor Children

Catholic Charities

Fertility Awareness and family Planning Archdiocesan NFP service

Criteria for Gabriel Angels



- Must be approved by the pastor
- Must be a member of the Parish and in good standing with the Church
- Must accept the Church's teaching on Marriage, family and life
- Must be faithful in observing the norms of Catholic life
- Must be willing to attend bi-monthly parish meetings and Archdiocesan workshops quarterly and the Certificate in Life, Justice and Peace Program
- Preferably attends Mass daily
- Preferably an older woman with children - like-with-life apostolate
- Preferably a woman of temperate disposition

Any Group or Organization within the Church which takes a supervisory role in the Gabriel Project®, must also be trained in the Apostolate. This includes the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Charities and Parish Social Ministry. Please contact the director Dr. Marcella Colbert at 713-741-8728 before starting the apostolate in your parish.

7 October, 2004



Gabriel Project® Parish Meetings

Indeed, the Lord Jesus, when He prayed to the Father, “that all may be one...as we are one”(Jn 17:21-22) opened up vistas closed to human reason, for He implied a certain likeness between the union of the divine Persons, and the unity of God’s sons in truth and charity. This likeness reveals that man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.

Meeting:

1. One prayer from the Gabriel Project® Prayer book (5)
2. Evening Prayer from the Magnificat (15)
3. Read part of the Angel / Resource Manuel and discuss (15)
4. Reports on Gabriel Events (20)
5. Intercessionary prayers for ones family and your Gabriel Mom (10)

Guidelines

1. Meetings must take place twice/month or more.
2. The Gabriel coordinator runs the meeting
3. Members must come on time
4. The meeting must not last longer than 1 hour 15 minutes.
5. You must attend meetings to be part of the project.

The meetings must be confidential

Gabriel Project® Volunteer Procedures

Central Gabriel Telephone number: 713-225-5826

Mother in need contacts the Gabriel Project® by calling 713-225-5826.

- All information on the intake sheet **must** be given to parish contact.
- Telephone volunteer takes the call or retrieves it from the mailbox, reassuring Mom the information is confidential.
- Telephone Volunteer records information from mother on intake sheet, fully and completely. **This is essential.**
- Based on Mom's address and zip code, the volunteer determines the parish boundaries and where Mom lives.
- Telephone Volunteer contacts the Gabriel Project® coordinator/social minister/pastor in Mom's parish and refers her to that parish.

When Mom comes to the Parish directly

- Parish contact must determine Mom's Parish based on address and zip and refer her to her home parish, or refer Mom to the Telephone Volunteers.

Once Mom is referred to the Parish

- The parish Gabriel Project® assigns a Gabriel Angel to Mom. **This is essential.**
- The Parish Gabriel Coordinator and Gabriel Angel assess the support services needed by Mom.
- It is the parish's responsibility, through the work of the Angel, to minister to Mom spiritually, emotionally and physically.
- If at any time a volunteer encounters a problem or is in need of advice **CALL Cathy McConn, Archdiocesan Gabriel Project® Coordinator at 713-741-8729.**

Role of the Angel

A. Keeping Spiritually Fit

1. Taking Inventory – Self Examination

The choices we make determine the person we become. Each of us has experiences in our past and present that make up who we are and forms how we look at life and how we deal with others. When we are involved in helping others it is important to take a serious look at ourselves. If we have deep hurts in our past that have not healed, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to be an effective helper to someone else. We are all wounded healers who must, through God's merciful love, heal our own wounds while trying to heal others. Look at your past and present. Are there situations or stresses where it will be difficult for you to be objective while listening to and advising another person who is suffering because of your own unresolved difficulties?

It may help you to do some self-reflection, prayer, discernment and journaling before making the decision to be a Gabriel Project® Angel. Does your prayer life or relationship with God need strengthening? Do you have some questions about your faith or the church?

Apart from contact with the Moms in crisis, there are other ways one can work with the Gabriel Project®. We must be spiritually and emotionally available to Mom to help her the way Christ wishes. Clearing out the cluttered areas of our lives makes room for loving others.

2. Prayer and Worship

Prayer and Worship are at the center of our lives as Catholics. How is Jesus present in your life? Are you living a life of grace by receiving the sacraments often, particularly Mass and Reconciliation? Do you spend time in prayer, both our beautiful Catholic prayers as well as those spontaneously spoken from your heart? Have you taken the time to be silent and listen to what God is calling you to do in your life? Do you go to Him in prayer during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or through reciting the Rosary?

Whatever you do to nurture your spiritual life you will need to intensify it. As we take this journey with Moms in need, difficulties will arise and we will need the help only God can give. If we keep our fountain of grace, given to us by the Holy Spirit, full, it will overflow naturally to others. Remember, "Ask and you shall receive."

3. Made In His Image

When working with Mom we must always remember that God created each of us in His image and we are all equal in His sight. Our faith, morals, relationships, manner of dressing, social skills may often be different from Mom's. We must forget our own egos, our own preferences and comfort zones when it comes to loving. We must not expect someone, to suddenly take on our value system or way of thinking, even when we know they are living outside the Church. We must treat all our Moms with the utmost respect and dignity, just as Christ would. The appropriate time will come to challenge someone's choices out of love and concern for them, but **loving Mom unconditionally must be our first priority.**

4. We Cannot Give What We Do Not Possess

As Mary visited Elizabeth after the Annunciation, Mary took with her the greatest treasure she had, Jesus in her womb. The baby in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy! As we visit Mom, we must remember the greatest treasure we have to share with her is Jesus Christ. If we do not have Jesus in our hearts through the Holy Spirit how can we share Him with someone else? He calls us to be aware of His presence in our lives, to share the love and joy and peace that His presence gives us.

How is Jesus present in your life? If He is not present in your life how can you bring Him to our Moms in need? Maybe, in calling you to this apostolate, God is also offering you an opportunity to get to know Him better. Remember that the Gabriel Project® is Pastoral Care not Social Work and you cannot bring God to others if you do not know Him yourself.

5. A Privilege to Serve

When the Angel works with Mom, she is representing the pastor, the bishop and the diocese: she is acting on behalf of the Church. This is a great privilege and a great responsibility. The Angel

- should keep accurate records of all she does with Mom and insure that the records are up to date and properly stored
- should always treat Mom and Mom's story with complete confidence, only giving others details on a need-to-know basis e.g. referral to the hospital, etc.
- the Angel must not give identifying details about Mom unless absolutely necessary

6. Motivations / Attitudes

Those who feel called to serve the Lord by helping Moms through the Gabriel Project® are motivated by their love for God and for others. Individuals volunteer for different reasons, such as:

- a desire to give back to others because we have been given so much ourselves
- a desire to right the tragic wrong of abortion
- healing from a past abortion, adoption, or miscarriage in our own lives

Whatever the reason, our **primary motivation must be love and mercy for the mom who has come to us for help. We are called to serve those most in need and to show them the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.** Loving and caring for Mom must always come before satisfying any other self-interested reasons. Are you thinking primarily of "saving her baby"? Do you want to show her where she went wrong? Do you want to tell her what she should do? We are not here to argue points on the life issues with her. We are not Gabriel Angels to fulfill our own agenda. We are not engaged in political activity. Helping Mom is **not** a means to that end. We help Mom's baby by helping Mom.

If you are not taking the time to show her how much you love and care about her, you are not serving her as Christ would. How, then, is she to come to know the love of Christ through us? As the cliché says, "They don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." Would you?

7. Practical Spiritual Preparation for a Visit

As you prepare to visit with Mom, always pray to the Holy Spirit that you will use His words and be constantly guided by Him in everything you do with her. Prepare yourself by saying a short prayer for her and her baby before each visit. Be bold in your love for the Lord by sharing glimpses of Him through your words and actions. Set aside personal concerns and be totally attentive to how Mom is feeling and doing.

Take something with you to leave with her that will remind her of our Lord and His love and concern for her (i.e., prayer card, rosary, book of meditations for moms, a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe or Madonna of the Streets, a Bible).

Always be charitable in your speech about and to her. We must serve her as we would serve Christ and we must try to serve her as Christ would.

We must understand the difference between our desires and our goals.

- **Our desire** would be that the Moms we work with will have happy endings (two parent families, holiness, chastity, mental health, physical health, emotional health, spiritual health, steady job, all bills paid, etc.)
- **Our goal** is to serve each woman we meet with the love of Christ to the best of our ability. We work towards our goals (that is something we have control over), but we pray about our desires and leave those in God's hands (we do not have control over those things)

We must never try to manipulate or persuade a woman to make a decision that is not her own. This is a serious violation of her integrity and dignity. She is the one to make responsible decisions for her future. Whatever Mom decides about the future of her pregnancy, there will be some tough times. When staying up all night with a crying baby or grieving over the baby that someone else is raising, she will need strength to get through. If you or someone else has made the decision for her (whether it be parenting or adoption), the resolve it takes to get through those tough times may not be there if she is blaming someone else for the decision.

If she ultimately makes the tragic decision to go through with an abortion after you have given her all the information about the devastation it will cause in her life and offered her material, financial and emotional help; it is still her decision. We are responsible for giving her all the help we can and for praying for God's divine mercy and intervention on her behalf.

Always let her know that you will love her no matter what decision she makes. Do not carry her guilt or feel that you have failed because she decided to say 'no' to God's gift of life. Remain faithfully in prayer for both mother and child.

B. Conversation and Listening Skills

1. The Confidential Intake Form

The Confidential Intake Form is the most important document each Angel will use. All Moms' information is included in this document. At the first and all follow up interviews, the Angel will record all information on the intake sheet.

The Gabriel Angel must review Mom's case with the Parish Gabriel Coordinator. When Mom has delivered her baby, all information must be given to the Parish Coordinator.

This information is confidential and can only be used for the precise purpose of helping Mom. For liability purposes, an accurate and full record is required. A copy of all intake forms must be sent to the Archdiocesan Gabriel Project® Coordinator or Respect Life Director. Copies of the intake form are in the Gabriel Angel and Resource Manuel©.

Confidentiality. After life itself, the most important possession we have is our own good name, our reputation. As a Gabriel Angel you will discover information about Mom, which could be detrimental to her if known by others, e.g. sexually transmitted diseases, serious psychiatric illnesses, adultery, fornication, etc. Knowing you will never discussing details of Mom's history, ensures Mom can talk freely to you. This is a Sacred Trust. Remaining silent about Mom at all times, is part of the responsibility which goes with the privilege of serving Mom.

And the other face of **Confidentiality** is **Privilege**. They go together. Privilege is what it says it is. In doing this work you are treated differently, morally and under the law. In having access to information necessary for you to do your work, you acquire the responsibility to keep it secret. You must regard this as an absolute requirement and a good habit to acquire.

Remember, there is a ladder of responsibility. You can discuss difficulties with your Parish Coordinator, with your Pastor, with the Archdiocesan Coordinator, Cathy McConn, and with the Respect Life Director, Dr. Marcella Colbert. Remember too, you can discuss Mom's difficulty without giving her name or identifying details.

There are exceptions, but exceptions prove the rule. Be silent at all times. An exception you will meet is statutory rape, where a minor child (under 17 years) is having sexual relations with a man. The younger the child and the older the man the more grievous is the offence.

2. Conversation

“They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

At the root of all successful conversation is treating Mom as you would wish to be treated yourself. Conversation refers to all meaningful exchanges between Mom and her Angel. It is not just words, but it is the meaning of these words as understood by Mom and her Angel. Misunderstanding can readily occur. Hence, there is the need for the Angel to prepare herself, and learn from experience the art of conversation.

We take part in conversation all the time, with our families, friends, and colleagues at work. As caring helpers we must understand that *listening is more important than talking*. It is through listening that you discern the details of Mom's story. You must never jump to conclusions about Mom or stereotype her. You must never interrupt or correct Mom. Through listening, you lead Mom to come to know and understand herself and her situation. Finally, attentive listening allows Mom to begin to regain self respect when the Angel accepts her unconditionally. When you listen, you listen with

- Your ears – to hear her story, the way the story is told, what Mom understands
- Your eyes – to see her body language and facial expressions
- Your undivided attention – to focus completely on Mom, not yourself
- Your heart – to allow Mom to confide and trust in you, which takes time; to show love, sympathy and compassion for Mom
- Your self - to be present to her; Mom is not a client or unit of mass data to be processed. She is a person who needs the love, support and understanding of another person.

Conversation includes:

- the spoken word
- body posture and gesture
- voice tone and inflection

Of these, the most telling is voice tone and inflection, then body posture and gesture and then the spoken work, yet we often tend to put more importance on the spoken word.

In one-on-one relationships, we continuously communicate whether we speak or not. The effective Angel must become aware of the impact her tone of voice, inflection, body posture and gestures have on Mom. Angels must know how to evaluate non-verbal communication from Mom to gain a better understanding of her situation.

3. Reconciliation and Healing

Reconciliation and healing is central to helping Mom. Only in this way will she be able, with God's love and help, and the help of her Angel to bring order, peace and fulfillment into her life, whatever the difficulties.

The Angel must bring Christ to Mom in her person, helping her in practical ways, always showing concern for Mom not herself. This is the new evangelization.

The Angel must pray for Mom and place her in God's hands, waiting for Mom to respond to the working of the Holy Spirit. Often we will not see this happen but the Gabriel Project® is full of wonderful stories of conversion.

In coming to know God is so full of love for each of us, so full of mercy, Mom, both Catholic and non-Catholic, is open to admitting fault on her part and aware of the need for forgiveness, from others and from God. This is the beginning of true Reconciliation

The release from sorrow and burdens, the relief in being back with God and the Church, the peace which follows confessing one's sins, cannot be described. Mom is back in the land of the living.

The only true healing with true peace follows sacramental reconciliation and absolution.

Only God can forgive and heal us fully. He will help us to forgive others if we only ask. Psychotherapy or counseling is not a substitute for reconciliation and healing.

The Angel must remember that the priest is available to help ALL Moms and she must tell Mom she can go to him for spiritual advice, guidance and sacramental reconciliation

How is the Gabriel Project® Implemented in the Parish?

One person, the Gabriel Project® Coordinator, with a few volunteers will accept the task of getting the Gabriel Project® started. After attending the Gabriel Project® Training, they will form the parish Gabriel Project®. It will take persistence and commitment for some time to get an active Gabriel Project® firmly in place, but with reliance on God's help, it will happen.

1. Permission from Your Pastor

Present the Gabriel Project® to your pastor and seek his approval to proceed. Inform the parish council and / or finance council about the Gabriel Project®. The Archdiocesan Gabriel Coordinator should be contacted for information and training.

2. Introduction to the Entire Parish - Gabriel Sunday

Meet with your pastor to plan how the Gabriel Project® will be presented to the parish. It is essential the whole parish know about the Gabriel Project®.

- Pick a Sunday with readings which tie in with the Gabriel Project®. October, which is Respect Life Month, January, March 25 the feast of the Annunciation, and/or May are good times to introduce the Gabriel Project®.
- The Sunday before insert a flyer in the bulletin preparing the congregation for Gabriel Sunday.
- On Gabriel Sunday, have someone speak at all the Masses about the Gabriel Project®. The speaker may be the pastor or someone who is involved with the Gabriel Project® and is a good spokesperson
- Include the Gabriel Project® in the prayers of the faithful.
- Brochures with volunteer sign-up cards are made available in the pews or at a table near the entrance of the church where parishioners can sign up to volunteer or donate money if they desire. During the presentation, draw these materials to the attention of the congregation.
- Ask the congregation to pray about the area of work God is calling them to do with the Gabriel Project®. Request the prayerful support of the entire parish for the Gabriel Project®.
- On Gabriel Sunday or at another designated time, the pastor can bless the parish's Sign of Life.

3. The Sign of Life and Other Necessary Materials

The Sign of Life is a 4' x 6' wooden freestanding sign with a message and image of the Madonna of the Streets in English and Spanish. The sign serves as a witness to the entire community and advertises the church's willingness to help a pregnant mother in need. The following materials are available through the Respect Life Office

The Sign of Life

Mother and Baby Prayer Books

Cards, Brochures and Posters

Each Angel receives an Angel and Resource Manual at training

4. Angel Training

A list of volunteers is gathered. All Gabriel Angels must attend an Archdiocesan sponsored training at the parish or at the Diocese before seeing Mom. This is imperative. The Angels must also obtain continuing Education at the regularly Scheduled Gabriel Project® Workshops at the Diocese. The Archdiocesan Respect Life Office provides training regularly and all training materials.

5. Finances

The Gabriel Project® will not be a financial burden on the parish, but it is important to let the pastor and finance council know of the financial needs of the Gabriel Project® parishes. All monies donated to the Gabriel Project® must be deposited in a separate account to which the Gabriel Coordinator has access.

- The main expense is the Sign of Life paid for by the parish
- The materials and training are provided by the Respect Life Office
- All the work of the Gabriel Project® is done by volunteers
- Fundraising is optional but people generously give when asked

6. Monthly Support Meetings

Plan a monthly meeting so that all the volunteers can get together and keep in close contact with one another for support, encouragement, accountability, spiritual enrichment, and continuing education. Use this time wisely and fruitfully. After each meeting everyone must leave with a new idea, new knowledge, and new inspiration or renewed motivation to continue as an Angel.

Start each meeting in the presence of God. Plan to get together for a special Mass, the Rosary or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, before your meetings. Each parish Gabriel Project® must have a coordinator and volunteers to do different tasks within the Gabriel Project®. Each parish Gabriel Project® will be unique in its character because of differences in resources available, number of volunteers, and demographics within the community.

7. Major Catholic Support Services

The Gabriel Project® works in collaboration with other parish and Archdiocesan Agencies to provide the best of care, mostly free, for Mom.

Pre-Natal, Delivery and Post-Natal Care, By law, each Hospital must provide charitable services to indigent patients to be eligible for Government Monies. This includes Catholic hospitals.

A Catholic Health Care Provider, Should ideally, should care for Mom throughout her pregnancy. If she must attend the Public or non-Catholic Health care Systems, she is very likely to be offered Sterilization, Contraception, Depo-Provera or IUD's. Abortion may also be offered, particularly if there is fetal malformation or disease. See how the Angel can protect Mom.

Mother & Baby Assistance, for the Gabriel Project®. Parish baby showers collect supplies for Mothers & Babies in need. Organize a Baby Shower or Bassinet Sunday, on Mother's Day, in October, or some other time. MAKE IT AN ANNUAL EVENT.

Project Rachel, is the outreach to women (and men) who have had an abortion or been involved in an abortion decision, offering confidential care, counseling, reconciliation and healing.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, provides person to person services to individuals in need, giving emergency assistance with food, clothing, rent and utilities.

Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning, is offered through the Family Life Ministry or other Archdiocesan Agency to help couples understand the gift of their own fertility when planning their families.

Parish Social Ministry, usually an outreach of Catholic Charities, provides professional social service at the parish and helps Gabriel Moms obtain their benefits including Medicaid, WIC, etc.

Catholic Charities, among its many services usually has:

Services to Pregnant Adolescents and their families. These services are particularly helpful when working with minor children who are pregnant. (under 18 yrs), where medical, psychological and legal difficulties require professional help.

Adoption, foster care, and post adoption services. All adoptions must go through a reputable Catholic adoption agency if possible. Catholic Charities will work with the local Gabriel Project® in providing workshops on this and other topics. **NEVER ARRANGE A PRIVATE ADOPTION FROM THE GABRIEL PROJECT®.**

8. The Michaels

The Michaels are a group of men in the parish committed to helping Mom by supporting the Gabriel Angels. A woman volunteer should always accompany a Michael. All requests for Michael support are channeled through the Michael coordinator who maintains a roster of men available for

- meeting with the father-to-be or, in his absence, with the mother-to-be or both as a mentor,
- transportation to an appointment or other places with proof of up to date liability insurance,
- auto & household repairs,
- financial advice,
- assistance in finding employment, and
- giving masculine example and help.

9. Help from the Parish

Many parish volunteers and organizations want to help the Gabriel Project®. Suggested tasks for these volunteers are:

- organizing the Annual Parish Baby Shower, collecting maternity and baby items or shopping for baby items at garage sales
- transportation to and from doctor's appointments, (Some volunteers may want to reserve a day or morning once a week to take women to their destination. Company is very important as Mom may feel pressured to abort or contracept by the Medical Service.)
- child care
- income tax preparation
- car and appliance repair
- meal preparation
- fundraising

10. Stewardship

You may get more items donated than you need at a particular time. Through parish donations, baby showers and bassinet Sundays the parish Gabriel Project® will receive maternity clothes, baby clothes and baby items. Keep an inventory of items available. Items need to be culled for usability and safety especially items for a baby. Make sure they are in good repair, clean and usable. Baby cribs and car seats are of special concern and must meet federal standards. Are they safe for a small child? Someone who has storage space and time to keep track of items may want to be in charge in this area. A clean and secure place to store the items with easy access for Angels will be important. Some diocese use commercial storage facilities. All items must be given freely to Mom with no strings attached just as they have been donated to the Gabriel Project®. However, as there is always a shortage of car seats and cribs, they can be lent to Mom. All items collected at each parish must be available as needed to other parish Gabriel Projects® in the diocese.

11. Transportation

From time to time, Moms may need transportation to an appointment or other place. Before an Angel or Volunteer transports Mom in their vehicle, they must be able to show proof of up to date liability insurance.

12. Commitment

A Gabriel Angel is committed to

- replying to Mom promptly
- checking up on her regularly
- praying for her daily
- arranging for services and responses to needs
- keeping all communications and information confidential
- be available when Mom needs a listening ear
- communicating with the parish coordinator
- attending support meetings

If an Angel is going on vacation, is overwhelmed with a family situation or for some reason cannot be available as an Angel, she must notify the parish Gabriel Project® Coordinator that she is temporarily unable to fulfill her commitment.

The Gabriel Project® Coordinator is committed to

- knowing all the Angels
- matching each Mom with an Angel
- communicating training, meeting times and workshop times
- communicating with the pastor
- encouraging collaborative ministry
- following up with Angels concerning the Moms they are helping
- mailing in the Confidential Intake Forms

13. Commissioning of Volunteers and Angels

Once you have volunteers committed and Angels trained they must be recognized in front of the church community with a commissioning ceremony during Mass.

How Does the Gabriel Project® Work?

1. The Initial Call

When a woman calls for help, the Central Phone Line volunteer fills in the **Intake Form fully**, and contacts the parish Gabriel Project® Coordinator at the Church closest to where Mom lives. The Parish Gabriel Coordinator contacts a trained Angel in her parish. The Angel calls Mom and sets up their first visit at the parish. **The Gabriel Angel should always meet mom at the parish for her own protection.** It is imperative that the Angel returns Mom's call within 2 days. A system must be set up to assure Mom has been contacted and is getting the help she needs.

2. The Central Phone Line

Trained volunteers staff the Central Phone Line. Calls are “remote call forwarded” to the volunteer’s home. Bilingual volunteers must be available to talk to Hispanic Moms. The parish signs will display the Central Phone Line number or the parish number. A central telephone line should be established after 10 Gabriel Project® parishes exist in a diocese.

3. Yellow Page Ad

The Central Phone Line for the Gabriel Project® should be advertised in the Yellow pages under Abortion Alternatives. This is an expensive but effective outreach to Moms in need.

4. Meeting with Mom

Always pray before you meet with Mom. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak through you and give you the right words to bring Christ into Mom’s heart. It is essential Mom and the Angel meet at the church in a relatively private, comfortable setting. Ask your priest or Deacon to greet Mom. A prayer or a blessing can be an incredible witness to a woman who has known few responsible, caring men in her life. The Michael's can also greet Mom with the Angel in the absence of the priest.

Do not travel alone or at night in an unknown area. Do not be afraid to ask Mom to pray with you.

5. Listen to Mom’s Story

When visiting with Mom listen. Let her tell her story, her situation, without input or interruption from you. Be an active, attentive listener. This will tell Mom how much you want to be there for her. The opportunity to give advice, suggestions, and/or comments will come much later as you build trust and rapport with her. She will be able to do most of her own problem solving as she talks through her difficulties. Give her the support and encouragement she needs through the information and resources necessary to solve her own problems.

6. Assessing Mom's Needs

As you listen to mom, keep filling in the intake sheet. *See below*

- Prioritize and List her most immediate, basic needs
- Review the Mother and Baby Prayer Book with her.
- Give her specific tasks: is she insured? have Medicaid? seen a doctor? Obtained benefits WIC, etc?
- Discuss with her the help she needs
- If necessary, refer her to the appropriate agency but always ask her to come back and see you. You are her MENTOR.

Remember, the Angel is a mentor and friend in need for Mom. The Gabriel Project® is not a referral service. Keep in contact with Mom throughout her pregnancy.

7. To Do List/Schedule Next Meeting

- Set some goals for Mom and yourself to accomplish before the next visit
- Give a reasonable time to accomplish the tasks
- Set a time for the next visit at the parish, then call and remind her a day or two in advance. Many times if you do not take the initiative to contact her between visits and encourage her, you may never hear from her again. If she leaves do not be discouraged. You were there for her at the right time
- Let Mom know you are there for her and can call you when she needs to talk

8. The Confidential Intake Form

The Confidential Intake Form is the most important document each Angel will use. A copy of the Central Phone Line Volunteer's Intake Form must be forwarded to the Angel who is helping her. All Moms' information is included in this document. At the first and all follow up interviews, the Angel will record all information on the intake form.

The Gabriel Angel must review Mom's case with the Parish Gabriel Project® Coordinator. This information is fully confidential and can only be used for the precise purpose of helping Mom.

For liability reasons, an accurate and full record is required. When Mom has delivered her baby, all information must be given to the Gabriel Project® Parish Coordinator. The Confidential Intake Forms must be sent to the Archdiocesan Gabriel Project® Coordinator or Respect Life Director. A copy may be kept at the parish.

Confidentiality. After life itself, the most important possession we have is our own good name, our reputation. As a Gabriel Angel you will discover information about Mom, which could be detrimental to her if known by others, e.g. sexually transmitted diseases, serious psychiatric illnesses, adultery, fornication, etc. Knowing you will never discussing details of Mom's history, ensures Mom can talk freely to you. This is a Sacred Trust. Remaining silent about Mom at all times, is part of the responsibility which goes with the privilege of serving Mom.

And the other face of **Confidentiality** is **Privilege**. They go together. Privilege is what it says it is. In doing this work you are treated differently, morally and under the law. In having access to information necessary for you to do your work, you acquire the responsibility to keep it secret. You must regard this as an absolute requirement and a good habit to acquire.

Remember, there is a ladder of responsibility. You can discuss difficulties with your Parish Coordinator, with your Pastor, with the Archdiocesan Coordinator, Cathy McConn, and with the Respect Life Director, Dr. Marcella Colbert. Remember too, you can discuss Mom's difficulty without giving her name or identifying details.

There are exceptions, but exceptions prove the rule. Be silent at all times. An exception you will meet is statutory rape, where a minor child (under 17 years) is having sexual relations with a man. The younger the child and the older the man the more grievous is the offence.

9. The Greater Community

Many public middle schools and high schools are very open to help for their students from the Gabriel Project®. The Parish Gabriel Project® Coordinator needs to approach the school nurse and/or the school counselor and explain that help is available to pregnant young women through the Gabriel Project®. Make sure to leave informational literature at the school.

MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH CALLER

**GABRIEL PROJECT®
Phone intake sheet for volunteers**

Date _____ Volunteer _____

Day of the Week: Sun. Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat.
Name _____ Age _____ Phone _____

Caller _____ Alt. Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Religion _____ Church/Parish _____

SS# or Greencard # _____

Insurance: Medicaid Medicare Private None

Have you called GP before? Yes No

How did you hear about GP _____

How far along are you? _____ Are you married single

Are you Parents aware of your pregnancy? Yes No Are they helping? Yes No

Is the baby's father aware of your pregnancy? Yes No Is he helping? Yes No

Where is the baby's father _____

Do you have other children? Yes No Do you have a doctor? Yes No

Are you considering abortion? Yes No Have you been to a clinic? Yes No

If so which one?

What is the best time to reach you? _____ May we leave a message? Yes No

NEEDS (circle all that apply)

Layette car seat carrier diapers stroller crib formula

Food baby clothes maternity clothes baby toiletries

Other: _____

Comments: _____

Referred caller to _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Parish _____

____ Contacted ____ left message to call us ____ no answer ____ call returned and info given

Follow up to caller _____

Date	Volunteer Initials	Comments
------	--------------------	----------

Angel Check List

Date _____ Mom's Name _____ Age _____
Mom's Phone Number _____ Alt. Number _____
Mom's Address _____ Zip _____

- _____ Contact Mom several days in advance to remind her of your next visit.
- _____ Review the manual as a refresher before visits with Mom.
- _____ Begin with a prayer each time you meet with Mom.
- _____ Inquire about Doctor's visits. Is she keeping current with her visits?
- _____ If there are siblings, inquire as to their well being.
- _____ Inquire about her husband/family members.
- _____ Make sure Mom is in contact with her insurance provider:
 - _____ Medicaid
 - _____ Medicare
 - _____ Private
 - _____ None
- _____ Inquire about financial status. Has she been in contact with:
 - _____ WIC Benefits – Nutrition Program for Women
 - _____ Texas Department of Human Services
 - _____ Food Stamp Program
 - _____ Parish Social Justice Ministry
 - _____ St. Vincent de Paul Society
- _____ Would she like to see a Priest for reconciliation/healing?
- _____ Make Coordinator aware of any unusual problems or issues (talk of abortion, deep depression, abuse, serious health issues)
- _____ Layette are not to be given before the seventh month.
- _____ If your Parish does not have maternal assistance, have Mom contact Gertrude Ryan at 713-225-5826 on Friday mornings.
- _____ Remind Mom that the hospital will not release the baby unless she has a proper car seat.
- _____ Car seats and other large items such as cribs need a safety disclaimer form that should be attached to the intake form.
- _____ Brief documentation needs to be made for every visit and conversation on the intake form or an attachment. This should be given to the Coordinator for permanent record after Mom has her baby.

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
The Gabriel Project®

2403 Holcombe Blvd
 Houston TX 77021-2023
 Website: <http://www.archgh.org>



facsimile transmittal

To:		Fax:	
From:		Date:	
Sender Phone #		Pages:	
Re:		CC:	
<i>Urgent</i>	<i>Confidential</i>	<i>Please Comment</i>	<i>Please Reply</i>
			<i>For Review</i>

CONFIDENTIAL

This facsimile contains confidential information which may also be legally privileged and which is intended only for the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient of this facsimile, or agent responsible for delivering it to the recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this e-mail may be strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please immediately notify us.

Gabriel Project® Resources

Brochure an informational tool designed to outline the major aspects of the Gabriel Project®. Available from Marcella Colbert 713-741-8728. Available in English and Spanish.

Bumper Stickers to spread the word on the Gabriel Project® even further are available from the Respect Life Office. Contact Marcella Colbert 713-741-8728.

Gabriel Project® Signs of Life to display in front of the parish are available from **Mercury Signs & Display Inc.**, 6424 Deihl, Houston, TX. 77092, 713-462-1068, FAX 713-462-1934, website: www.mercurysigns.com. The Parish orders and pays for the signs. The sign should be in both English and Spanish

THE GABRIEL PROJECT®
**PREGNANT?
NEED HELP?**



WE, THE MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH COMMUNITY, SEE IN THE BIRTH OF EACH BABY A FRESH EXPRESSION OF GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE. FOR THE LOVE OF GOD AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF HIS CHILDREN, WE OFFER IMMEDIATE AND PRACTICAL HELP TO ANY WOMAN FACED WITH A CRISIS PREGNANCY.

THE
GABRIEL PROJECT®

713-225-5826

THE GABRIEL PROJECT®
**¿ESTÁ EMBARAZADA?
¿NECESITA AYUDA?**



NOSOTROS, LOS MIEMBROS DE ESTA COMUNIDAD PARROQUIAL, VEMOS EN EL NACIMIENTO DE CADA BEBÉ UNA EXPRESIÓN NUEVA DEL AMOR INFINITO DE DIOS. POR EL AMOR QUE LE TENEMOS A DIOS Y A CADA UNO DE SUS HIJOS, OFRECEMOS AYUDA INMEDIATA Y PRÁCTICA A CUALQUIER MUJER EMBARAZADA QUE SE ENCUENTRE EN CRISIS.

THE
GABRIEL PROJECT®

713-225-5826

Billboard Signs are an excellent means of advertising the Gabriel Project®. If you are interested in sponsoring a sign please contact Marcella Colbert for more information at 713-741-8728.

Gabriel Project® Angel and Resource Manual is a guide which contains invaluable information for the Gabriel Angel.

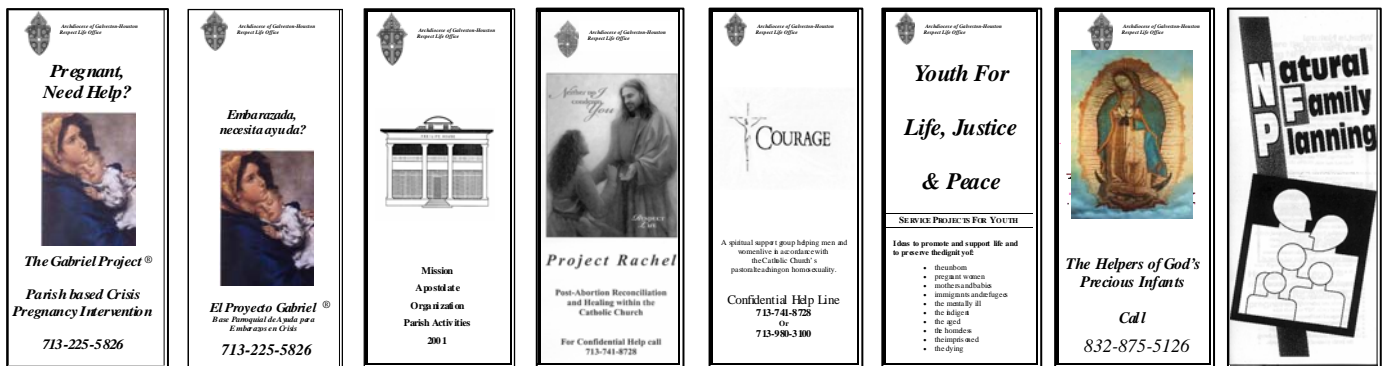
Gabriel Project® Bulletin Inserts can be used to inform the parish of Gabriel Project® needs and events.

Project Rachel Inserts are available from the Respect Life Office.

Call 713-741-8728 for more information

Gabriel Project® Resources

Gabriel Brochures, Respect Life Office Brochures, Project Rachel Cards, Courage Brochures, Youth for Life, Justice and Peace Brochures, Helpers of God's Precious Infants Brochures and Natural Family Planning Brochures are informational tools designed to outline the major aspects of the various programs. Available from Marcella Colbert 713-741-8728.



Gabriel Project® Signs of Life to display in front of the parish are available from **Mercury Signs & Display Inc.**, 6424 Deihl, Houston, TX. 77092, 713-462-1068, FAX 713-462-1934, web-site: www.mercurysigns.com. The Parish orders and pays for the signs. The sign should be in both English and Spanish

THE GABRIEL PROJECT®
**PREGNANT?
NEED HELP?**



WE, THE MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH COMMUNITY, SEE IN THE BIRTH OF EACH BABY A FRESH EXPRESSION OF GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE. FOR THE LOVE OF GOD AND EACH AND EVERY ONE OF HIS CHILDREN, WE OFFER IMMEDIATE AND PRACTICAL HELP TO ANY WOMAN FACED WITH A CRISIS PREGNANCY.

THE GABRIEL PROJECT®
713-225-5826

THE GABRIEL PROJECT®
**¿ESTÁ EMBARAZADA?
¿NECESITA AYUDA?**



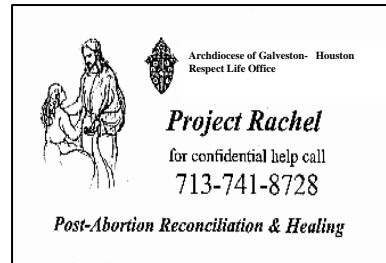
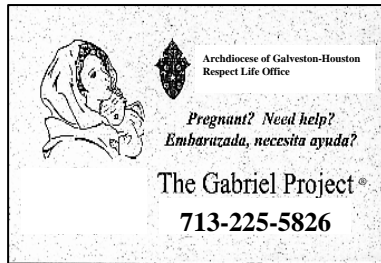
NOSOTROS, LOS MIEMBROS DE ESTÁ COMUNIDAD PARROQUIAL, VEMOS EN EL NACIMIENTO DE CADA BEBÉ UNA EXPRESIÓN NUEVA DEL AMOR INFINITO DE DIOS. POR EL AMOR QUE LE TENEMOS A DIOS Y A CADA UNO DE SUS HIJOS, OFRECIMOS AYUDA INMEDIATA Y PRACTICA A CUALQUIER MUJER EMBARAZADA QUE SE ENCUENTRE EN CRISIS.

THE GABRIEL PROJECT®
713-225-5826

Billboard Signs are an excellent means of advertising the Gabriel Project®. This Image is also available in a poster size. If you are interested in sponsoring a sign please contact Marcella Colbert for more information at 713-741-8728.



Business cards advertising **The Gabriel Project®** and **Project Rachel** are a convenient way to spread the pro-life message for those on the go.



Respect Life Office Door Posters display the Major programs run through the Respect Life Office. Contact Marcella Colbert 713-741-8728

Greeting cards are available from Marcella Colbert 713-741-8728.



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Respect Life Office



*Pregnant? Need help?
Embarazada, necesita ayuda?*

The Gabriel Project®
*Crisis Pregnancy Intervention at the
Parish*

for confidential help call
713-225-5826



*Suffering after an abortion?
Help is available*

Project Rachel
*Post abortion reconciliation and healing
within the Catholic Church*

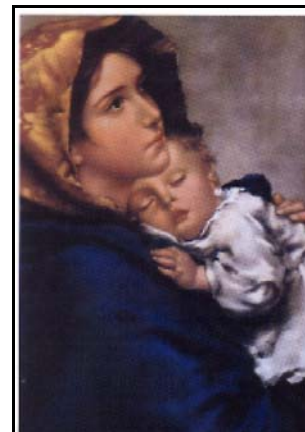
for confidential help call
713-741-8728




Sexual or gender identity conflicts?

Courage
*A spiritual support group helping homosexual
men and women live a chaste life*

for confidential help call
713-980-3100




Bumper Stickers to spread the word on the Gabriel Project® even further are available from the Respect Life Office. Contact Marcella Colbert 713-741-8728.



**Pregnant, need help?
¿Embarazada, necesitas ayuda?**

Gabriel Project® 713-225-5826

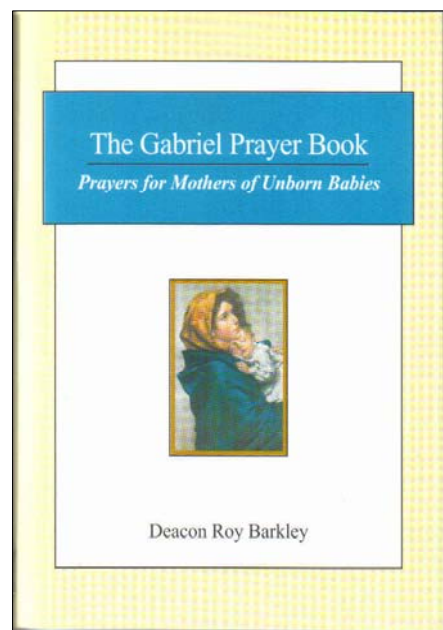


Pro-Life Prayers and Reflections for Mothers and Babies

Deacon Roy Barkley's
The Gabriel Prayer Book:
Prayers for Mothers of Unborn Babies
 (53 + viii pp., paper)

For all mothers of unborn babies
 for problem pregnancy centers
 for pro-life resource centers
 for maternity homes, clinics, and hospitals
 for all caregivers of pregnant girls and women
 for Gabriel Project® Angels——

A book for pregnant mothers, featuring thoughtful,
 Scripture-based reflections and prayers
 in simple, accessible language,
 on many subjects
 related to childbearing and motherhood——
 for the baby's and mother's health
 for the stages of pregnancy
 for being a good mother
 for caregivers and the baby's siblings
 for babies with special needs
 and for many other intentions



SEM Publishing
P.O. Box 2115
Pflugerville, Texas 78691-2115
www.sembooks.com

“These prayers are truly inspired and beautiful. They touch the heart because they are at once simple and profound, heartfelt and full of the wisdom of Scripture. I know they will inspire young mothers-to-be with the courage that is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.”

Anne Barbeau Gardiner, professor emerita,
 John Jay College, CUNY

Retail prices:	
1 copy	\$ 4.95 + \$1.75 s&h
5 copies	22.30 + 2.95
10 copies	39.90 + 4.95
20 copies	72.00 + 6.25
30 copies	101.70 + 8.15
40 copies	131.40 + 9.75
50 copies	154.50 + 11.75
Each additional 10 copies	29.00 + 1.50
Wholesale prices:	
Price to bookstores	2.69 + 1.50 first copy
	2.69 + .30add copy
Problem pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and Archdiocesan pro-life offices get the bookstore price.	
Copies available at 713-714-8728	

Stephen Efre More Publishing is a Catholic publisher under the patronage of St. Stephen, deacon and Martyr; St. Efre, deacon and doctor of the Church; and St. Thomas More, statesman and martyr.

Major Support Services – Archdiocesan Gabriel Project®: Mother & Baby Assistance

Parish baby showers for mothers in need is the way the Gabriel Project® collects all the material supplies needed to help women and their babies. The coordinator is **Gertrude Ryan**, 713-225-5826 Friday mornings.

The Gabriel Project® accepts donations of these following items to fill needs throughout the Archdiocese. There is a constant demand for large items like cribs and car seats, which are often too expensive for our expectant mothers.

- Baby beds, mattresses
- Walkers
- Baby room decorations
- Bassinets
- Strollers
- Changing tables/mats
- Playpens
- Bathtubs
- Car seats
- Crib linens
- Highchairs
- Carriers, etc.

Clean, gently used items are gratefully accepted. Please bring all large items directly to Little Flower Thrift Store located at 5334 Washington Ave., or call 713-862-7347. Baby food and formula are donated to local St. Vincent de Paul pantries.

Large material donations are tax deductible. Forms are available from **Gertrude Ryan**. Parish baby shower donations provide us with items like these to make baby layettes for Gabriel Moms.

- Crib blankets
- Baby toys
- Socks
- Bottles
- Receiving blankets
- Underwear
- Baby shoes, booties
- Baby clothes (boy & girl)
- Sleepers
- Sweaters
- Disposable diapers (small & medium)
- Gowns
- Hats
- Cloth diapers (package)
- Bibs
- Baby shampoo, powder, oil
- Combs, brushes
- Wipes
- Diaper bag
- Pacifiers

You can donate all supplies and clothes to the Mother and Baby Assistance at Morkovsky Hall, 2403 Holcombe Blvd., 713-225-5826, or to your parish social assistance or local Birthright. Send all food to your parish pantry of St. Vincent de Paul Society. Please bring large items directly to the Little Flower Thrift Store at 5334 Washington Ave., 713-862-7347. Hours are 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Vouchers for Mother and Baby Assistance are available from Gertrude Ryan at 713-225-5826 (Friday AM). The Gabriel Angel keeps the vouchers and assesses the mother's material needs. The mom then brings the voucher with her to the Little Flower Thrift Store where she can collect needed items.



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Respect Life Office

Large Items for Gabriel Project® Safety Disclaimer

This new/used item.....has been donated to help mothers in need with their Pregnancies. You should make an opportunity to inspect it because, in accepting it, you are relying on your own judgment about its condition and suitability for your needs. You should not rely on any effort of the Church to inspect it or otherwise to insure that it is safe in the use to which you will put it. In other words, you are taking it “as is” and “at your own risk”, and without charge.

Item Number..... Date

Signature.....

Name (caps).....

Address.....City.....

TX..... Zip.....

Telephone.....

Gabriel Coordinator.....Parish.....

Administration at Parish.

All Large Items must be numbered on receipt

The number of the Item must be noted on the Safety Disclaimer release Form

Give a copy to Mom and also the Parish Gabriel Coordinator

These records must be kept for a long time

How to Organize a Baby Shower

Many parishes now hold a shower each year. Let your parish contribute in this way. This is always a joyful event, positive and uplifting. It is one of the best ways to bring the respect for life message to the parish in a constructive and positive way.

- Consult your pastor.
- Display bulletin announcements and a flier in the two weeks coming up to Mother's Day, or day of the shower.
- Include each group in the parish in the preparations, the school, the CCE classes, the Ladies Guild, etc., and give each group specific tasks to do and times to attend at the tables.
- If you have a parish school, involve the children in your parish baby shower. They can make posters to advertise the shower and contribute small items.
- Contact the school religious education teacher.
- Coordinate the shower with a week of Pro-Life educational activities at school.
- Request gently used as well as new items.
- Decorate the tables with pink and blue, balloons and bunting.
- Serve cake and punch after each Mass.
- Leave a crib in a prominent place for donations.
- Provide a bowl or basket for cash donations.

Parish Baby Shower for Mothers in Need After Each Mass

Date

The Parish Baby Shower for Mothers in Need is the principal way the Gabriel Project® collects all the supplies needed to help women have and keep their babies.

There is a constant demand for large items like cribs and car seats which are often too expensive for our expectant mothers. Clean used items are gratefully accepted.

Needed for Layettes

Crib Blankets
Safe Infant Toys
Socks
Bottles
Receiving Blankets
Onesizes
Baby Shoes, Booties
Baby Clothes (boy & girl)
Sleepers
Sweaters
Disposable Diapers (small
& medium)
Gowns
Hats
Cloth Diapers (package)
Bibs
Baby Shampoo, Powder,
Baby Wash
Combs, Brushes
Wipes
Diaper Bag
Pacifiers



Big Items Needed

Baby Beds
Mattresses
Walkers
Strollers
Changing Tables/Mats
Playpens
Bathtubs
Car Seats
Highchairs
Carriers

*Collect supplies
for Mothers and
Babies in Need
New & gently
used items wanted*

The Elizabeth Support Group

About 4 or 5 years ago Fr. Adrian worried that we were taking care of the pregnant Moms in the Gabriel Project®, but he wondered what happens to them after they had their babies and is there any follow up care.

He thought that a Gabriel Moms support group would be a good idea. So our Gabriel Project® implemented Fr.'s idea and it has been a wonderful success and blessing to the Moms and St. Bernadette's Parish.

We have been meeting once a month in our Parish Mini Hall, the last Sat. of the month from 9:45 after morning Mass until about 11:30. We invite all our expectant Gabriel Moms and our Gabriel Moms that have already given birth, and any member of the Parish would like to help us. We have a speaker (most have been professionals from our own Parish) who speaks to the Moms for about 20 minutes. We have refreshments, and we give out donations that the Parish has given to us for the Gabriel Moms. Some of our speakers have included

:

Dr. Decker, a Pediatrician and Parishioner speaking on child care of a new born infant

A Dentist from our Parish speaking on dental health

A labor and delivery nurse and lactation specialist speaking on breast feeding, and 1 labor and delivery and what the young Mom should expect, also a Parishioner.

A Mom, Physician and home school advocate who talked to the Moms about juggling life's demands from our Parish.

A Parishioner (my Mom) who spoke about cooking with simple ingredients like the food they receive from WIC and cooking demonstration and cookbook giveaway.

A Mom (Parishioner) who has many small children who talked about surviving with a home full of small kids.

We had a Parishioner with the TX CHIPS program come and talk about their program

We have had a Parishioner and seamstress help the Moms to learn how to hand sew

We have had Mrs. Monterubio come and talk about her faith walk and trust in our Lord through the hard times of her life.

We have had speakers from Gulf Coast Careers speaking on finding employment

Natural Family Planning Speakers from our Diocese

Some of our upcoming support groups include speakers from WIC, Nurse Jan Atkins from St. John talking about household safety and a nurse from TX Children's hospital talking about wound care.

Our support groups have been loved by the Parish and has drawn many people to know about the Gabriel Project® and how we help the Moms in crisis and they want to help in any way they can. Some Parishioners buy little catechisms for the Moms and make rosaries for them. It has been a perfect way for the Parish to become involved and for evangelization. Father Adrian even had the idea to call this Gabriel Support Group the St. Elizabeth Support Group in honor of our Blessed Mother and St. Elizabeth and the help and love they showed each other.

Sorry about the long letter, but I wanted to tell you about something beautiful that is happening here at St. Bernadette. Thanks be to God for Fr. Adrian, Fr. JJ and Father Mike and for you Marcella for leading us all!

Project Rachel

Project Rachel is the confidential and compassionate outreach to women (and men) who have had an abortion or been involved in an abortion decision. Its purpose is to foster reconciliation and healing between the parent and Christ, His Church, the child and all other significant relationships.



Project Rachel includes:

- Information and advice
- Return to the sacraments, particularly Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Healing Masses, retreats, and spiritual guidance
- Individual counseling by telephone or in person
- Assessment and referral for medical or other professional intervention
- Support groups
- For more information and confidential counseling, call **713-741-8728**

Women experiencing abortion aftermath are likely to report: grief, depression, sense of loss, guilt, low self-esteem, suicidal ideation, alcohol or chemical abuse, sexual dysfunction or promiscuity, phobias, nightmares, “baby” dreams, flashbacks, intrusive thoughts concerning the abortion, compulsion to become pregnant again, involvement in abusive relationships, anger, eating disorders, increased anxiety in subsequent pregnancies, episodes of uncontrollable weeping, inability to form intimate relationships, inability to adequately bond with subsequent children; some experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Men experiencing abortion loss exhibit rage, a sense of impotence, grief, and will often describe risk taking behavior, alcohol or drug abuse and sometimes become very involved in father’s rights issues. **Siblings** will often develop the symptoms of survivors syndrome, particularly guilt or feelings of abandonment by their parents.

In addition, grandparents sometimes suffer confusion and grief over the occurrence of an abortion. In some cases, they feel responsible for the abortion decision. Other times, they were unaware of the pregnancy and the subsequent abortion, and this may lead to a sense of inadequacy and anger at being overlooked in the decision process. Grandparents often express deep concern for their children who have procured an abortion. Some experience a sense of outrage at having been denied the opportunity to support their child and denied the much desired experience of grandparenting.

The death of a preborn or born child is a great sorrow for all involved, particularly for the mother. The mother feels separated from God, the Church, herself and her child. Offering a memorial Mass for such a death can help bring comfort and God's healing presence for those involved. **A liturgy guide** is available. To arrange a memorial Mass in your parish, call Marcella Colbert at **713-741-8728**.

Fertility Awareness & Natural Family Planning (NFP)

Fertility awareness & Natural Family Planning (NFP) are provided by the Office of Family Life Ministry to help couples understand the gift of their own fertility when planning their family.

Love & Chastity

Love is the sincere and unconditional gift of ourselves to another. We learn to love by receiving the gift of love from others, particularly our family, and from God, who is love itself. Love is necessary for human fulfillment, for it is through **true** love we learn who we are. Love gives our life meaning.

Chastity is rightly-ordered sexual behavior. Another way to say it is: Chastity is using one's sexual capacity properly, according to your state in life. Love between married people is expressed genitally as well as many other ways. Sexual relations are for marriage alone. Affection and friendship are forms of love which **are not** expressed genitally among chaste people, except within marriage.

Conjugal love is both **unitive** and **procreative**. It is the union of two people spiritually, emotionally, and physically. To be truly open to the gift of love we must be open to the gift of life. In God's plan there is no separation of the unitive and procreative aspects of marital love.

Marital chastity, demands that each act of sexual union not be artificially 'sterilized.' We are created man and woman in God's very image. As a result, *human* sexuality has a spiritual dimension and significance, its own unique dignity. This spiritual, sacramental dimension of sex is part of its unitive power for humans. It follows that, in a mysterious way, contraception harms **both** the unitive and the procreative effects of the act.

Barriers to union are

- Sexual thoughts and acts by oneself (masturbation)
- Sexual thoughts or acts for your own pleasure (lust)
- Sexual thoughts or acts between unmarried people (fornication)
- Sexual thoughts or acts with someone other than one's spouse (adultery)
- The use of "scientific" means of conception which separate the *procreative* from the *unitive* (e.g., test-tube babies or *in vitro* fertilization, artificial insemination, cloning, destructive embryonic stem cell research, etc.)

Biotechnology The use of "Scientific means of conception." A child is a gift from God. **A child is never a right**

- IVF in vitro fertilization natural father and mother
- reduction abortion,
- donor egg - donor sperm
- surrogate motherhood
- all combined, a child could be from a donor egg and sperm, carried by a surrogate mother another couple. Five parents.

Research on human embryo's

- storing embryos
- medical experiments on embryos,
- harvesting tissues and parts,
- embryonic stem cell research /Adult stem cell research,
- cloning, therapeutic /reproductive

Barriers to procreation are

- The use of birth control pills, intrauterine devices (IUD's), or patches, shots, and implants for which all cause abortions. They are called contraceptives but they are not.
- The use of barrier contraceptives: condoms, diaphragms, cervical caps, spermicidal gels, foams, sponges, or douches
- All forms of surgical sterilization – tubal ligation (getting the tubes tied) or hysterectomy (removal of womb) with the intent to sterilize in women, vasectomy in men
- Coitus interruptus (withdrawal), sodomy (anal sex), fellatio or cunnilingus (oral sex to completion), etc.

Natural Family Planning (NFP)

NFP is an umbrella term for certain methods used to either achieve or avoid pregnancy, without using contraception, sterilization, or morally-objectionable fertility approaches. NFP is based on observations of naturally-occurring signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's menstrual cycle. Couples using Natural Family Planning to avoid pregnancy abstain from intercourse or genital contact during the fertile phase of the cycle. No drugs, devices, or surgical procedures are used to avoid pregnancy.

NFP can be thought of as “fertility awareness in action.” When trying to become pregnant, users of Natural Family Planning have the advantage of being able to identify their most-fertile time as a couple. In this way, couples with low fertility are sometimes able to get pregnant using NFP, when they were previously unable to do so.

NFP honors the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life. It promotes openness to life, and recognizes the value of every child. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, NFP will enrich the bond between husband and wife.

As a method of family planning, NFP:

- Calls for mutual responsibility by husband and wife
- Fosters deep personal communication in marriage
- Is based on scientific research into the processes of human reproduction
- Treats each menstrual cycle as unique, and teaches the couple to observe signs of fertility on a day-to-day basis (unlike “rhythm”)
- Has no harmful side effects; instead, it builds wellness for the wife through greater awareness of her normal bodily functioning
- Is effective for achieving or avoiding pregnancy

- Can be used in special circumstances – such as post-partum depression, during breastfeeding pre-menopause, financial difficulty or emotional difficulty etc.
- Is virtually cost-free.

The Billings Ovulation Method is very simple to learn and use. The fertile time is observed by checking the consistency of cervical mucus.

The Couple to Couple League teaches the sympto-thermal method where the woman's body temperature is measured each morning. Cervical mucus is also monitored. It is easy to use, and the League is also a lay movement with spiritual and human support for parents and children.

The Creighton Model presents a form of the 'ovulation method' for Natural Family Planning. Also known as the Medical Model, Creighton is excellent for couples with fertility problems, helping them to learn about their combined fertility. In addition, it assists the woman in recognizing hormone problems, and in maintaining good health.

See brochures or call Joe DeVet, NFP Consultant
in the Office of Family Life Ministry, at 281-723-5686
email: Nfpflm@aol.com



CHRISTUS Health

CHRISTUS Health Hospital and health care system, sponsored by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word has agreed to offer medical, and specifically obstetrical help to our Mothers who come to the Gabriel Project® , **St. John Hospital** in Clear Lake whatever their ability to pay. **This includes prenatal, delivery and post delivery care.**

This is NOT an emergency service. All emergencies must be sent directly to the local emergency room.

Women who are eligible for this service **MUST** be part of the Gabriel Project® at their parish. This service is for **indigent, undocumented or working Moms who are unable to afford Medical Insurance.** Only **CHRISTUS Health** is offering this service as part of its commitment to providing health care to the most vulnerable and poor among us and in a way which upholds the Church's commitment to the Church's moral teachings.

A number of physicians in each hospital have offered their services to our Mothers and the Hospital System is absorbing the cost. So in effect, we are able to offer full obstetrical care to our needy Mothers at no cost to them.

This is a very valuable part of our outreach and must not be abused in any way. If in doubt call Dr. Colbert at 713-741-8728.



CHRISTUS / St. John Hospital

The following are the procedures established between St. John Hospital and The Gabriel Project® for women to gain access to obstetric services.

All referrals to St. John's Hospital must come from the Parish Gabriel Project® .

St. John Hospital is providing an invaluable service to our pregnant mothers and we must ensure that all procedures are followed exactly and the services are not abused in any way.

Information and Services

The contact at **CHRISTUS** St. John is Cynthia Broussard. She can be reached at 281-333-8808. All referrals go through Cynthia. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

CHRISTUS St. John will provide an information packet to the client from the physician's office. The packet includes information explaining the pre-registration process and information related to the Medicaid application. A discharge pack is provided at the time of discharge from the hospital.

Pre-natal care, delivery and infant care is provided in the hospital. Once the client leaves the hospital they will be responsible for additional pediatric care.

The following information will be needed at the **time of registration.**

- Picture Identification
- Medicaid verification – letter/application
- Completed pre-admission form
- Emergency contact information

Once registered you will receive a plastic identification card that will be used for any outpatient services and at the time of admission.

Center for New Life Preadmission Procedure:

It is important for mothers to register by the 7th month of pregnancy. Registering early will help to avoid any confusion should she require services prior to the due date. This time will be utilized for insurance verification and to identify any additional needs the mothers may have. In addition to hospital pre-registration mothers will be required to meet with Anesthesia Services prior to delivery so that a medical history can be taken.



Contact List for *CHRISTUS* St. John

Cynthia Broussard

281-333-8808

Initial Contact, emergencies, preterm labor, physicians on call, physician contact

Registration and Admission Process

281-333-5503

Medicaid

281-333-5503

Center for New Life

281-523-2020

Michael Sullivan

281-336-3722

Director for all Services

Business Office and Admitting Office

281-333-5503

Childbirth Classes

281-333-2664

Pre-Term Labor Prevention

Pre-term birth occurs in 6% - 8% of the women in the United States. Pre-term labor occurs three or more weeks before your due date. Because pre-term labor needs to be treated promptly to prevent pre-term birth here are some important warning signs that you need to know. If you have any questions, please call 281-333-LIFE.

KNOW the warning signs of pre-term labor:

- Contractions of the uterus
- Menstrual-like cramps
- Pelvic pressure
- Low, dull backache
- Abdominal cramping – may be accompanied with Diarrhea
- Fluid leaking from the vagina

REMEMBER: Pre-term labor is usually NOT painful, If you have any of the signs of pre-term labor:

- Lie down on your side for an hour
- Drink 2 or 3 glassfuls of water
- If the signs do not go away or if you have fluid leaking from your vagina, call your physician immediately

When calling your physician be sure to give your name, your due date, and describe the signs you are experiencing.

Medical Clinics

For the remainder of the Archdiocese, the following clinics will help indigent Moms.

(Archdiocesan Owned)

San Jose Clinic 713-228-9411
301 Hamilton, Houston, TX 77002

San Jose Clinic—Spring Branch Location 713-462-8825 ? Near St. John Vianney
8575 Pitner, Houston, TX 77080
High Star

Immaculate Heart of Mary Adult Health Clinic 713-923-2394
7539 Avenue K, Houston, TX 77012
Open Thursday's 5pm—9 pm

Spring Branch Community Health Center 713-462-6565
9325 Kempwood Drive Houston, TX 77080
Sal Guttilla PSM SJV 281-497-4434
guttilla@stjohnvianney.org
Will accept undocumented Pregnant Moms from St. Jerome and St. John Vianney Parishes.

(Non-Archdiocesan Owned)

Christus New Horizons 409-765-1479
728 Church Street, Galveston, TX 77550

Southwest Community Health Clinic 713-779-6400
6441 High Star, Houston, TX 77074

Providing Medical Care for our Mothers who are illegal, indigent or earn too much to obtain government benefits but cannot afford insurance, is the greatest difficulty we face.

Our Mom's are offered contraception, sterilization and even abortion at non Catholic Hospitals. Provide personal support in accompanying Mom to her Doctor's visits so her rights are not violated, most particularly for our Spanish speaking Mom's



Major Support Services – Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities provides assistance to the Gabriel Project® through two programs:

Parish Social Ministry provides professional social service at the parish and helps Gabriel moms obtain their benefits, including Medicaid, WIC, etc. Parish Social Ministry, a program of the Community Outreach Division of Catholic Charities, creates a unique partnership between parishes in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and Catholic Charities to build parish communities of service and social change. Parish Social Ministry is Catholic Charities' core program that supports and challenges its other programs. Through Parish Social Ministry, the work of Catholic Charities finds a home in local parishes while forming parishioners in the four elements of the Church's social teaching and mission: Direct Service, Justice Education, Legislative Advocacy, Community Organizing. Call Catholic Charities at 713-526-4611.

Children Services provides comprehensive professional services to minor pregnant moms and their families including counseling, educational and after-care services:

Services to Pregnant Adolescents and Their Families

Catholic Charities' Services to Pregnant Adolescents and Their Families program is designed to be responsive to the needs faced by a family whose young daughter or son is facing parenthood.

Educational Services - Weekly educational classes are offered to the mother, the father of the baby, and family members. General topics covered include:

- Parenting
- Infant Safety
- Lamaze Classes
- Taking Care of Self and Baby During Pregnancy
- Life Skills
- Relationships and Communication

Counseling Services - Individual, group and family counseling can help young parents and their families deal with the following concerns:

- Realities of parenting
- Personal relationships
- Employment and education goals
- Financial stress

Aftercare Services – A parenting support group is available after the baby is born. Some young parents may also be eligible for in-home parenting education and well-baby visits for one year.

What About Adoption?

What is adoption? Adoption is the birth Mother's choice to permanently and legally entrust her child to the care of someone else. Mom may choose to remain involved in her birth-child's life, but the adoptive couple becomes the child's parents.

What types of adoption does the Gabriel Project® Support? All adoptions must be handled by the local Catholic Adoption Agency, usually Catholic Charities. If a Catholic Agency is not available, remember Adoption is big business with only one baby available for every 40 couples who want to adopt. If Mom needs residential care, ensure the home will not pressure her to adopt. Working with a Catholic Agency prevents Mom being abused and financially exploited.

The Gabriel Project® is NOT an adoption agency and is NEVER to be involved in private adoptions. It may be considered illegal in some States, and adoptions are beyond the competency of the Gabriel Project®.

Who is affected by adoption? The birth family, the adopted child and the adoptive family are affected. Each person has needs and adoption today address the needs of everyone.

Why do people choose to make an adoption plan for their child? Giving her child up for adoption is a sign of real courage and mature love on the part of Mom for her child. She is willing to suffer herself for the sake of her child. The circumstances surrounding adoption include:

- An ill-timed pregnancy
- Financial considerations
- Age at the time of pregnancy
- Family encouragement for adoption
- A plan to continue education
- Mom is unmarried
- Lack of support and interest on the part of the birth father

Moms choose adoption because they are unable to parent the baby ***at that time***. Most Moms will choose to parent another child later in their life. Birth Moms make adoption plans because they love their baby and want what is best for them.

What is “open” adoption? In open adoption, the birth Mom participates in selecting the adopting family for her child. She can choose whether or not to meet the adopting family and to keep in contact with her child and parenting family once the child is adopted.

While adoption is a legal arrangement, open Adoption is not; it is a social arrangement. That means the ‘open’ part of the adoption is an agreement between Mom and the adoptive family unenforceable by law. Mom has no legal obligation to her birth-child or the adoptive family. Many birth Moms want an opportunity to say good-bye to their baby and they want to know how the baby is doing from time to time. The birth Mom will always love and care about her child.

A prayer service and ritual when Mom gives her baby to the adoptive parents is spiritually helpful.

How does Mom make an adoption plan? Mom will need to consult with a state certified Catholic child-placing agency. The social workers at the agency will talk with Mom and help her decide if adoption is the best option. Options counseling can take up to one month. **Talking to an agency about adoption does not mean that Mom has made up her mind!** Mom will have time to make up her mind about what to do and will not have any obligation to the agency.

If Mom chooses to pursue adoption, the social worker will discuss her needs now and the degree of openness she wants. Mom will help select the adoptive family prior to the baby's birth. The social worker will fully explain the legal and social aspects of the adoption plan.

What are the legal aspects of adoption? You need to ensure that Mom fully understands her legal rights and obligations. The agency will be responsible for this. Legal requirements vary from state to state. Once the legal paper work is signed, the child is available for adoption. Adoption agencies do not charge the birth Mom anything for their services.

I love my baby and I'm worried about how I will feel after making an adoption plan. Quality agencies provide counseling and support groups for Moms for up to two years at **NO** cost.

Common Concerns About Adoption:

Yes, you can choose your baby's family

Yes, you can meet the adoptive family

Yes, you can design your own adoption plan

Yes, if you already know a qualified family and they wish to adopt your baby, this can be accomplished

The Adoptive Family - There are many loving, caring couples who want children but cannot have them. These couples are also emotionally and financially ready for parenthood. This is where adoption can be a loving and unselfish decision for the well being of all concerned – the child, the birth parents and the adoptive couple. Adoptive families are:

- Carefully screened, studied and approved
- Loving, caring and stable
- Educated in adoption issues and in infant and child care
- Supervised for a least six months after placement

Post Adoption Services - Adoption doesn't end on the day of placement. It is a lifelong process for the child, the birth parents and the adoptive parents. Post adoption counseling, exchange of information and support groups are available through reliable agencies



The Society of St. Vincent DePaul, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was founded in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam, a French university student. Today, the Society is an international organization of more than one million Catholic lay people, known as Vincentians, who provide service to those in need in over 133 countries worldwide.

The Society has been active in the Houston – Galveston area since 1871.

2007 Facts

- 1,800 lay men and women in 62 parish-based Conferences in the Archdiocese provide person-to-person service to individuals in need. Services included emergency assistance with food, clothing, rent, utilities, and visits to the elderly, the sick and to those in prison. In all, over 305,000 people in our community were served by the Society during 2007.

Programs of the local Society:

- St. Vincent de Paul Village – a transitional housing facility for homeless families with children (single-family units).
- St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores (2) – designed to offer low cost merchandise to the public and free merchandise to individuals in need, through a Conference referral process.
- Forty-three Conference-based food pantries.

2007 Figures

- Vincentians helped 305, 356 individuals.
- St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores provided free clothing, household items and furnishings to 6,643 people in need.
- St. Vincent de Paul Village provided transitional housing and other supportive services to 3,049 to families.



The Society of St. Vincent DePaul, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Conferences– There are St. Vincent de Paul Conferences in 62 parishes within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. To find the nearest St. Vincent de Paul Conference, or to find out how to start a Conference in your parish, please call the Archdiocesan Council Office at (713) 741-8234, ext. 109.

St. Vincent DePaul Village– The St. Vincent de Paul Village, located off of I-45 and W. Mount Houston Rd. in northwest Houston, provides transitional housing to homeless families with children. Families are provided with an array of services designed to help them become self-sufficient. For information regarding the St. Vincent de Paul Village, please call (281) 447-3511.

St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Stores– the Thrift Stores are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am. – 5:00 p.m. The stores accept donations of gently used clothing, furniture, appliances and other household items. A truck is available to pick up furniture, appliances and other large items. Donations of clothing and other small items may be taken to either of the following two store locations:

Ozanam Donations & Distribution Center
2020 Washington Avenue
Houston, TX 77007
Phone: (713) 862-2605

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store
5236 Cedar Street
Bellaire, TX 77401
Phone: (713) 669-9410

For pick-up of large donations, please call (713) 862-2605. All donations are tax deductible and we provide a tax deduction receipt for all donated goods. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the stores, please call (713) 741-8234, ext. 110.

Donations: Please forward your tax-deductible donations to:

Society of St. Vincent DePaul
2403 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, TX, 77021
713-741-8234
713-741-3639 (fax)
www.svdphouston.org

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantries

All Saints 713-864-2653
Assumption 281-447-6381
Christ the King 713-869-1449
Corpus Christi 713-667-0497
Epiphany of the Lord, Katy 281-578-0707
Guardian Angel, Wallis 979-478-6532
Holy Rosary, Rosenberg 281-342-3089
Immaculate Conception 979-865-2368
Our Lady Star of the Sea 713-674-9206
Our Mother of Mercy 713-672-0026
Sacred Heart, Conroe 936-756-8186
Sacred Heart, Crosby 281-328-4871
Sacred Heart, Manvel 281-489-8720
Shrine of the True Cross 281-337-4112
St. Albert 713-771-3596
St. Ambrose 713-686-3068
St. Andrew, Channelview 281-452-9865
St. Anne 713-526-3276
St. Anne, Tomball 281-351-8106
St. Anne de Beaupre 713-869-1319
St. Anthony of Padua 281-296-2800
St. Augustine 713-946-8968
St. Bartholomew, Katy 281-391-4758
St. Benedict 713-413-2626
St. Cecilia 713-465-3414
St. Christopher 713-645-6614
St. Frances Cabrini 713-946-5768
St. Francis de Sales 713-774-7475
St. Francis Xavier 713-731-2716
St. Gregory the Great 713-631-8780
St. Helen, Pearland 281-485-2976
St. Hyacinth 281-479-4298
St. Jerome 713-468-9555
St. Jerome, Clute 281-452-9865
St. John Fisher, Richmond 281-342-5092
St. John Neumann 281-931-0684
St. Joseph, New Waverly 936-344-6104
St. Leo the Great, Humble 281-449-2344
St. Mark the Evangelist 281-437-9114
St. Martha, Kingwood 281-358-6637
St. Mary, La Porte 281-471-2000
St. Mary, Plantersville, 936-894-2223
St. Mary, Texas City 409-945-8662
St. Mary of the Purification 713-528-0571
St. Mary Star of the Sea 979-233-5271
St. Matthias, Magnolia 281-356-2000
St. Michael 713-621-4370
St. Michael, Lake Jackson 979-297-3041
St. Michael, Needville, 979-793-7456
St. Monica 281-447-5837
St. Nicholas 713-223-5210
St. Paul, 281-333-2509
St. Peter Claver 713-672-0804
St. Philip the Apostle, Huffman 281-324-1478
St. Philip Neri 713-734-0320
St. Rose of Lima, 713-692-9123
Sts. Simon & Jude , Woodlands 281-367-9885
St. Theresa, Sugar Land, 281-494-1156
St. Thomas More 713-729-3294
St. Vincent de Paul 713-667-9111

Housing & Shelters - Catholic

Houston Catholic Worker 713-869-7376

- **Casa Juan Diego** – House of hospitality for immigrant and refugee women and Spanish speaking battered or pregnant women.
- Casa Maria de Guadalupe
- Casa Don Bosco
- Medical Clinic for the undocumented

Gift of Mary's Home, Missionary of Charity 713-921-9687

A new Home for homeless women, pregnant or not. The sisters are working with Casa Juan Diego. Mom should also be attached to a Gabriel Project® for all other care. The address is: 7, Sidney, Houston TX., 77003 (near the convention center)

St. Vincent de Paul Village 281-447-3511

Transitional living for families, adults over 21, children under 18. Single persons accepted. Two bedroom, duplex apartments. First month free, with a monthly program fee thereafter. Utilities provided but must be willing and able to work. Drug and alcohol free and no mental illness. Lease is for six months with possibility of extension. Will accept pregnant women with or without children. St. Vincent de Paul sponsor is not necessary.

Angela House, 713-741-8234 ext 105

Residential program to serve adult women recently released from prison. This transitional housing program provides a healthy community, educational opportunities, and substance abuse treatment, a GED, computer skills, individual psychological care whatever is needed to help them reintegrate into society. Call Sr. Maureen O'Connell at (281) 445-9696

Villa de Guadalupe 713-227-9981

Transitional residence for women and their children. Accepts pregnant women and up to 2 children, includes newborn if born while at the shelter. Provides counseling and promotes self-reliance. Women must be working or capable of working.

Magnificat Houses 713-529-4231

- **St. Joseph House** – Center for job training units for the recovering mentally ill., 713-523-5958
- **Opus Maria** – Center for social adjustment programs for the recovering mentally ill, 3300 Caroline
- **Galilee** – Retreat and Recreation in Galveston.
- **Ave Marie** – Community Residence, 1217 Paschall St.
- **Bethany** – Community Residence, 1304 Fairview St.
- **Anawim** – Community Residence, 5420 Sherman St.
- **Emmaus** – Community Residence, 1211 Stuart St.
- **Maranatha** – Community Residence, 3317 San Jacinto.
- **Our Lady of Divine Providence** – Residence for families, 5818 Perry St.
- **St. Francis House**—Community Residence, 1211 Francis St.
- **Visitation House**—Mission Residence, 3301 San Jacinto

Special Residences and Projects

- **Susanna** – Residence for women with children, 1304 Elgin St.
- **Miryam's Hostel** – Overnight shelter for women, 713-224-1373
- **Morning Star Hostel** – Residence for men and women with AIDS, 3207 Austin.
- **Holy Family Apartments** – Volunteers and Staff , 3215 Austin

Covenant House 713-523-2231

Temporary crisis shelter for teens (including pregnant girls)– under 21.

Santa Maria Hostel 713-228-0125

Residential care, professional counseling and education for high-risk women with or without children.

Wellsprings 713-529-6559

Transitional residence for homeless and/or abused women between the ages of 30-50 who are capable of full-time employment.

Casa de Esperanza de los Niños 713-529-0639

Homes for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect or the HIV/AIDS virus.

Isaiah House 713-227-1400

Transitional housing and related services for Catholic men who have recently been released from prison or jail.

Housing & Shelters – Non-Catholic

Star of Hope Shelter 713-748-0700

Transitional living with a one-year program. Provide follow-up after one year. Need reference or eviction notice. For women 18 or older, pregnant with or without children.

Life House 713-623-2120

A Christian maternity home providing care, counseling and support for women ages 13 – 25 experiencing a crisis pregnancy.

Faith Lutheran Church 713-664-3048

Shelter for pregnant women.

Coalition for the Homeless 713-739-7514 Crisis Line 713-228-1505

Will refer clients to services, which are **NOT** Pro-life.

Harris County Community Development 713-578-2000

Offers monetary assistance with rent, utilities, etc.

Special Services - Thrift Shops

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Stores

2020 Washington, Houston, TX 713-862-2605

5326 Cedar, Bellaire TX 713-669-9410

Little Flower Thrift Shop 713-862-7347

5334 Washington, Houston, TX 77007

Hours: Mon.- Fri.; 2nd & 4th Sat. 10:00am-2: 00pm

Second Blessing Resale Store 713-780-2727

3100 Rodgerdale, Houston, TX 77042

Hours: Tues. – Sat. 10:00am – 5:00pm

Charity Guild Shop 713-529-0995

1203 Lovett Blvd, Houston, TX 77006

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 10:00am – 3:00pm

Joseph’s Coat Resale Shop 281-752-2485

625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 10:00am - 4:00pm Sat. 10:00am—2:00 pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe Thrift Shop 281-342-2219

514 Carlisle, Rosenberg, TX 77471

Hours: Tues. – Thurs. 9:00am – 12:00pm; 1:00am – 3:00pm; Wed. 9:00am – 12:00pm

Providence Thrift Store 713-995-0009

7671 Clarewood Drive, Houston, TX 77036

Hours: Mon.— Sat. 10:00am—6:00pm

Sacred Heart Social Ministry 281-431-0969

14307 Highway 6 in Arcola

Hours: Tues. – Fri. 10:00am – 3:00pm; Sat. 10:00am – 4:00pm

St. Jerome Thrift Shop 713-468-5910

8825 Kempwood, Houston, TX 77080

Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 9:30am – 12:00pm—Food Pantry

Mon.- Thurs. 9:30am—11:30am—Clothing Store

Texas Works Overview

An introduction to Social Welfare in Texas

Overview:

The mission of the Texas Department of Human Services is to provide financial, health, and human services that promote the greatest possible independence and personal responsibility for all clients.

Our key responsibilities to the citizens of Texas include:

- fostering of individual choices, dignity, safety and independence for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and families;
- encouraging self-sufficiency, while sustaining families and individuals in times of need; and
- using public funds in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Keys to Independence

- Medical Assistance
- Food Stamps
- Cash Assistance
- One Time Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (OTTANF)
- Help finding job
- Child Care
- Child Support
- Community Services
- Family Violence Services
- Programs for Elderly and Disabled Persons
- WIC: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children
- Tax Credits
- Tuition Waivers

Texas Department of Human Services:

Region 6 Administrative Offices 713-767-2156

5425 Polk Street

Houston, TX, 77023

The Food Stamp Program

Frequently Asked Questions see appendix.

Preguntas Frecuentes sobre el programa de estampillar para Comida.

All the above information is available on the Internet at

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/>

How the Angel Protects Mom

In all circumstances the Angel must accompany Mom. There are certain services that Mom may need where Catholic standards are not maintained. This is particularly true in the areas of sterilization, contraception and abortion.

1. Obtaining WIC and Other Benefits

All Moms applying for such benefits are routinely offered contraceptive advice. Mom may think she must accept the contraceptive advice to obtain her benefits. She may also be ignorant of the effects of contraception on her body and spirit.

If Mom is delivered in a public or non-Catholic hospital and particularly if she has more than three children, she will be offered tubal ligation or contraceptives, particularly Depo-Provera.

If Mom is battered and needs refuge, most women centers are pro-abortion and in favor of sterilization, contraception and divorce.

If Mom is raped and brought to a public or non Catholic hospital she will routinely be given the morning after pill to induce abortion if conception has taken place. She may not be fully informed about the procedure or treatment.

If raped, Mom may take precautions to prevent conception from taking place. However, once conception takes place, nothing may be done to interfere with the pregnancy.

Every state has a web page to access information on social services available through the Department of Health, which includes details about all the programs and benefits available to Mom and lists local welfare offices by zip code

2. CareNet and Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Most crisis pregnancy centers, whether independent or under the CareNet umbrella are out-reaches by Evangelical Christians. They ask their volunteers to sign a statement of faith, which is not in accord with Catholic teaching. Moms who are referred to CPC's may be proselytized. Care should be taken in contacting CPC's for any services including sonograms and pregnancy tests.

Make arrangements with and use the local Catholic Hospital system for all medical services. Your diocese may have a Catholic Pregnancy Care Agency or a Gabriel Project® Life Center. **You are not competent to provide medical care.**

3. When Mom Is Abused

This is NOT a service the Gabriel Project® provides. Refer her to the parish social Services. If she has been assaulted or threatened tell her to call the Emergency Telephone Line 911. Remember, most Women's Centers which help battered women are pro-abortion and in favor of contraception and divorce. Very often Mom will refuse to press charges and go back to a

violent household. A Maternity Home or Maternity Shelter can offer Mom a place of respite and care for her pregnancy until she can diffuse her situation.

4. When Mom is a Minor

Many Dioceses have special Social Services for pregnant minors (up to age 18 yrs) and it is often advisable to refer difficult minor Moms to Catholic Charities or a Maternity Home.

- In many states it is not a crime for a 17 year old to run away, but **it is a crime for someone to harbor a minor who has run away.** You should immediately seek advice from your Pastor or Parish Social Services or Catholic Charities. (Check your state laws.)
- It is important to obtain parental consent for a minor if you wish to transport her, house her, and get medical care for her. (Check your state laws.)
- **It is a crime in many states not to report child abuse.** (Check your state laws.)

5. When a Minor Mom is Being Forced to have an Abortion

If a minor believes she is being forced to have an abortion, by the father of the child or her parents, she has a legal right to refuse to have an abortion. She may leave home to meet with someone for protection or advice. Meet Mom at the Church and involve your Pastor in this situation. It is not a crime to give Mom advice. It is a crime to take a minor from her home. **This is kidnapping.**

6. Finding Support for Mom

Ask her if anyone in her family supports her decision to keep her baby, an aunt, grandmother, older sister, etc... If not, does she have a friend who will take her in or to a shelter?

It is very important the Angel does everything to reconcile Mom with her parents, husband or other family members. The pastor, her friend's parents or the hospital social worker can talk to her parents on her behalf. Often, parents of a pregnant minor need time to accept this new reality. Time and prayer may be enough to soften a parent's resolve and accept their daughter's pregnancy – two to four weeks.

7. What if the Abortion is Already Scheduled?

Advise Mom to leave her home. This is a serious situation in which the pastor must be involved. The Angel must always meet her at the parish with the Pastor. Have Mom sign a notarized statement stating she does not consent to an abortion. Mom can tell the Angel the time and place of the abortion. The Angel can meet her at the Abortion Site with the sworn affidavit, which will discourage the clinic from performing the abortion. Under no circumstances will the Angel pick the minor up from her home and take her away. **This is kidnapping.**

8. When a Minor Becomes a Runaway

If a minor has already left home of her own free will and is living on the street or staying with friends, Mom is a **runaway**. You may be able to convince Mom to talk to her parents with you, the Pastor or a member of the Social Service about her pregnancy. Often, the resistance parents show toward their daughter can be ameliorated when another adult with good and practical information steps in.

9. Family Reconciliation

The most desirable outcome is to reconcile the family. Arrangements must be made for follow up family counseling with the local parish priest and appropriate Catholic family counseling agency. Although he has no legal rights, it is important to be sensitive to the father of the unborn child and his family, and include them in the reconciliation process.

10. When Mom Speaks Only Spanish

Spanish speaking Angels must be available to work with Spanish speaking Moms or a Spanish speaking volunteer must be available to translate and make it possible for the Angel to serve Mom. Spanish materials must also be available for Mom. Be sensitive to the fact that the Hispanic culture has a view and understanding of life and family that is different from those of us born in the United States. Children are considered a national treasure in Mexico. The Office of Hispanic Ministry in your Diocese can be of great assistance.

11. When Mom Wants an Abortion

This is a very difficult situation for most Gabriel Angels and volunteers. Don't panic, keep your wits about you, take a deep breath and prayerfully reflect on your role as the heart, hands, eyes and ears of God to Mom.

Reach out in love to help her. Your tone of voice and way of talking to her tell her much more about you than anything you can say does. She will judge whether you are loving and trustworthy by your attitude and way of behaving towards her. Let her know how much you want to help her and all the ways that you can help her. Be gentle and accepting.

12. What about Adoption?

What is adoption? Adoption is the birth Mother's choice to permanently and legally entrust her child to the care of someone else. Mom may choose to remain involved in her birth-child's life, but the adoptive couple becomes the child's parents.

What types of adoption does the Gabriel Project® Support? The local Catholic Adoption Agency, usually Catholic Charities, must handle all adoptions. If a Catholic Agency is not available, remember Adoption is big business with only one baby available for every 40 couples who want to adopt. If Mom needs residential care, ensure the home will not pressure her to adopt. Working with a Catholic Agency prevents Mom from being abused and financially exploited.

The Gabriel Project® is not an adoption agency and must NEVER be involved in private adoptions. It may be considered illegal in some States, and adoptions are beyond the competency of the Gabriel Project® .

13. Working with Mom's Support System

Help Mom identify her support system and encourage her to reestablish contact with her family, friends, church, and co-workers. Encourage Mom to change her life by avoiding bad companions, disordered environments and ways of life that are unhealthy. Help her seek companionship and friends who are life giving. Encourage Mom to come to know God, her Father in heaven and His only beloved son, Jesus Christ, her spiritual support. Always invite Mom to come to church with you.

14. Developing a Relationship with Mary

Give Mom a holy card or picture of Mary and remind her that Mary once was an unwed mother who trusted that all things were possible with God. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe may be especially meaningful to Mom, as Mary is 8 months pregnant in this image.

15. When Mom Needs a Place to Stay

Housing is a difficult issue in any city, therefore, Mom's first and best resources are her family and friends. Homelessness is not a healthy situation for mother or her unborn child. The Salvation Army is not such a good environment for Mom either. Identify places that provide a home or shelter to expectant mothers, specifically those with a Catholic identity that you can use in the event a Mom needs a place to stay. In general, Gabriel Angels should not provide housing to Moms.

Many good hearted families are open to having a Mom come into their home to live until her circumstances improve or until the baby is born. These are called Shepherding Homes. Great caution must be used in screening a Mom before allowing a family to take her into their home. A Mom who is unstable or dysfunctional could be very disruptive to a peaceful home. A loving environment can have a positive effect on Mom.

16. When Mom Needs Monetary Assistance

If Mom asks for monetary assistance, the Angel must inquire what the monies are needed for and why. Remember, the Gabriel Project® offers immediate and practical help, not monetary assistance

Fulfilling a monetary request means approaching parish organizations, such as Parish Social Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul, and the Knights of Columbus or Catholic Daughters for help. **Under no circumstances will the Angel hand cash to Mom.** The Angel must mail or deliver a check to the debtor with the check made out to the debtor on Mom's behalf.

When Mom Wants to Talk About Her Fertility

The following is information that can be used to educate Mom on alternatives to contraception and sterilization.

1. Fertility Awareness & Natural Family Planning (NFP)

Fertility Awareness & Natural Family Planning (NFP) is usually provided by the Archdiocesan Family Life Office and helps couples understand the gift of their own fertility when planning their family. NFP is an umbrella term for certain methods used to achieve and avoid pregnancy. These methods are based on observation of the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's menstrual cycle. Couples using NFP to avoid pregnancy abstain from intercourse and genital contact during the fertile phase of the woman's cycle. No drugs, devices, or surgical procedures are used to avoid pregnancy.

NFP is a sign of the value and dignity of the human person within the sacred and holy marital embrace. Conjugal relations are sacred. Within the context of marriage and family life, NFP promotes openness to life, and recognizes the value of the child. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving nature of marriage, NFP enriches the bond between husband and wife

Fertility awareness enables the single Mom to learn about her fertility, build self-confidence and recognize the importance of chastity. Private and individual instruction by a qualified Natural Family Planning Practitioner helps provide an on-going support system for a successful transition to the chaste lifestyle for the woman or couple.

Methods

There are three methods of family planning, The Billings Method, The Couple to Couple League and the Creighton Model.

3. Chastity

The gift of love that we make of ourselves to another is tempered with the virtue of chastity. Chastity allows our love to be free of selfish desires so that we may selflessly give of our self to another. Chastity is more than abstinence. Abstinence implies that we give up something. Chastity gives one the opportunity to develop an intimate spousal relationship that is not dependent on sex.

Referrals/Legal Issues

1. Knowing Our Limitations

All Gabriel Project® Angels are volunteers. Very few are licensed or degreed counselors, doctors, or lawyers. We cannot give medical or legal advice nor do we try to handle on our own, someone who is alcohol or drug addicted or has what seems to be serious mental illness.

It is imperative that we learn to know our limitations and have the adequate resource information available for those who need it. When in doubt about whether to refer someone to a professional, call on your pastor or find someone in these various professions who will be advisors to your group. Pray for discernment and prudence. Never give legal or medical advice unless you are a doctor or lawyer and can legally do so.

2. Confidentiality

Gabriel Project® is an apostolate that deals with very personal issues, thus it is imperative that all who are part of the Gabriel Project® maintain its integrity by respecting the confidentiality of each person who comes for help. **Only in cases of intent to do bodily harm, suicide or suspected child abuse may we break that confidentiality to the proper authorities.**

Confidentiality within the Gabriel Project® means that no identifying details or names of Moms are talked about to ANYONE. Within the Gabriel Project®, Mom's name and details must also remain anonymous. Discussion may be used for helping and conferring purposes only. Our speech and conduct must be charitable and a reflection of Christ to others. Do not slander or speak ill of anyone; stay with the facts and only the facts.

Confidentiality. After life itself, the most important possession we have is our own good name, our reputation. As a Gabriel Angel you will discover information about Mom, which could be detrimental to her if known by others, e.g. sexually transmitted diseases, serious psychiatric illnesses, adultery, fornication, etc. Knowing you will never discuss details of Mom's history, ensures Mom can talk freely to you. This is a Sacred Trust. Remaining silent about Mom at all times, is part of the responsibility which goes with the privilege of serving Mom.

And the other face of **Confidentiality** is **Privilege**. They go together. Privilege is what it says it is. In doing this work you are treated differently, morally and under the law. In having access to information necessary for you to do your work, you acquire the responsibility to keep it secret. You must regard this as an absolute requirement and a good habit to acquire.

Remember, there is a ladder of responsibility. You can discuss difficulties with your Parish Coordinator, with your Pastor, with the Archdiocesan Coordinator, Cathy McConn, and with the Respect Life Director, Dr. Marcella Colbert. Remember too, you can discuss Mom's difficulty without giving her name or identifying details.

There are exceptions, but exceptions prove the rule. Be silent at all times. An exception you will meet is statutory rape, where a minor child (under 17 years) is having sexual relations with a man. The younger the child and the older the man the more grievous is the offence.

3. Release Forms

When a minor is being housed, special release forms must be signed and notarized by the child's legal guardian. Home agreements and liability release forms, along with rules and guidelines, must be signed both when housing minors or adults. If information needs to be exchanged with another agency or persons for purposes of helping a woman, please use a release form.

Telephone Volunteers

Gabriel Project® Telephone Volunteers answer the central number phone line (713-225-5826). They volunteer to give ½ a day once a week to do this work.

The Telephone Volunteers are given special training and follow-up meetings to assist them in their work. Cathy McConn at **713-741-8729** is the volunteer coordinator. Volunteers can take the phone calls at the Gabriel Office at St. Dominic Center or in their home through call forwarding. Speaking Spanish is a definite plus.

When a call comes in the volunteer finds out where the mother lives and arranges for her to be assisted by **The Gabriel Project® Church closest to the mother's home**. All moms are assisted. The telephone volunteer contacts the Gabriel Project® coordinator at the parish. If the coordinator cannot be reached the Church's main number is called.

The Telephone Volunteer who takes a call continues to assist the caller until the mother is settled and helped. Telephone volunteers do **NOT** give Mom the phone numbers of the Gabriel coordinators or volunteers.

The Telephone Volunteers perform an invaluable service, as they are the first to meet the distressed mother on the phone and make the referrals, which will help her.

Cathy McConn at 713-741-8729 is the Archdiocesan Gabriel Project® Coordinator. All difficult calls are referred to her.

Telephone Volunteers: Guidelines for Answering the Telephone

Hello, I am a telephone volunteer for the Gabriel Project® . My name is..... I am here to take your initial information to help you get the help you need at one of our parishes

Who are we?

The Gabriel Project® is a program of the Catholic Church which provides emotional, spiritual and physical help to women who find themselves in a difficult pregnancy

Do you know how we work?

- This help is for **all** women, whatever their religion.
- We give support throughout the pregnancy at the local parish
- We take your information over the phone to send to the parish
- All your information is completely confidential
- We identify the parish you will attend, based on your address and zip code
- This is not an emergency service.

We Provide

- A particular person at the parish to provide support throughout your pregnancy
- Baby items
- Referral for medical care
- Help obtaining benefits
- Fertility awareness and Natural family planning
- Post abortion reconciliation
- Special care for minor children (under 18 yrs)

What we do not provide...only if asked

- Money for rent or utilities
- Housing
- Transportation



“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His mercy endures forever”
The Lord is with me to help me” *Psalm 118.1,7*

The creative goodness of God’s love fills the world. He calls me to take part in that goodness. He calls me to be a mother.

Sometimes blessings are hard to receive because they require self-denial. Sometimes in order to be blessed, I have to do difficult things. But God is with me and will help me.

The Gabriel Project® Prayer Book.

**Do you wish to help a Mother in Need?
Become a
Telephone Volunteer for the Gabriel Project®**

Weekly from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm or from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Calls can be taken at home

Training and follow up supervision provided

Bilingual persons needed

**Please contact Cathy McConn
Gabriel Project® , Archdiocesan Coordinator**

Tel: 713-741-8729

Easy to use Spanish Phrases For Telephone Volunteers

If you would like to speak to someone in Spanish, please call after 5 o'clock and leave a message.

Si gusta hablar con alguien en Espanol, por favor llame despues de las cinco y deje un mensaje.

Please call after 5 o'clock

Por favor, llame despues de las cinco de la tarde

Are you pregnant?

Esta usted embarazada?

The number is 713 225-5826

El numero es: Siete, uno, tres, dos, dos, cinco, cinco, ocho, dos, seis

What is your name?

Cual es su nombre?

What is your telephone number?

Cual es su numero de telefono?

How many months pregnant are you?

Cuantos meses tiene usted de embarazada?

Are you married or single?

Esta usted casada o' soltera?
0

What is your address?

Cual es su direccion?

Is this your first pregnancy?

Es este su primer embarazo?

Someone will return your phone call in Spanish

Alguien le regresara la llamada en Espanol

May God bless you

Que Dios la bendiga

Gabriel Project® Telephone Instructions

Gabriel Project® Central Telephone No. 713-225-5826

Remote Call Forwarding

Dial 713-xxx-xxxx

Listen for instructions and enter xxx-xxx-xxxx, the PIN xxxx

To connect your phone

72# + your phone number

Voice will confirm your number.

Voice will ask you to Press 1, then 2 beeps will confirm.

To disconnect your phone

Do steps 1 & 2

73# 2 beeps will confirm you are disconnected.

To Retrieve Calls from the Gabriel Project® Mailbox

Dial 713-xxx-xxxx

When message starts interrupt it by pressing #

It will ask for your mailbox number: enter xxxx

It will ask for your password enter xxxx

Message Menu follow

Press 1 to listen to unread/new messages

Press 2 to listen to read messages in the inbox

After making your selection from the above choice.

Press 1 to save messages. **All Spanish messages must be saved**

Press 2 to move message to the delete folder. Always delete busy signals.

Press 3 to review message

Please retrieve all messages from mailbox before going on line.

Return all Calls. Continue to attempt to reach Mom if she does not answer

August 29, 2007

Community Fundraising Opportunities

It is important to have Respect Life as part of the parish budget. This must be discussed with the pastor and the parish finances council. Here are some simple ways to raise funds while also keeping the Respect Life message before people.

Randall's Good Neighbor Program—The Gabriel Project® is now a member of Randall's Good Neighbor Program! Randall's Food Markets will donate 1% of your total grocery bill to the Gabriel Project® if you apply this number toward all your purchases at Randall's: **Randall's – The Gabriel Project® #2845**

Also, use your Randall's Remarkable Card to **automatically** assign the 1-% donation to the Gabriel Project®. Verify with the Randall's Cashier that #2845 is the Charity number designated to your Remarkable Card.

Neighbor to Neighbor Program - The Gabriel Project® is also a member of the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Program. The Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program will donate \$1 million annually. Each organization will earn a percentage of the \$1 million equal to the percentage of total earned contributions attributable to that organization.

Gabriel Project® Bumper Stickers - Advertise the Gabriel Project® with these attractive bumper stickers also available from **Marcella Colbert at 713-741-8728**

Roses for Mother's Day- Sell roses after mass on Mother's Day or any day throughout the year.

Christmas Card Sales— Order cards in bulk from Kris Cummings at : gabrielproject@stjohnvianney.org. Each year the cards are beautifully designed by students from our Catholic Schools and are sold with the approval of Dr. Marcella Colbert, Director of the Respect Life Office, Gabriel Project®, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. We ask you to support and use these Gabriel Project® Christmas cards. The cards are a wonderful fundraiser for your own Parish's Gabriel Project®.

Customer Letter

Step One:

Read through this letter to understand the advantage of being a part of the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program.

Step Two:

Take the letter with you to your neighborhood Kroger store the next time you go shopping.

Step Three:

Present the letter with **your organization's barcode** to your cashier upon checkout. After they have scanned your KrogerPlus Card you will be enrolled for the current year of the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program. Every time you shop at Kroger and use your enrolled KrogerPlus Card, Kroger will contribute a percentage of your eligible purchases to the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation fund. Once a card is scanned with the barcode, it will be active for the remainder of the program year.

Q & A

How many Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor accounts can an organization have?

One per organization. (Example: ABC HIGH SCHOOL account could represent: PTA, cheerleaders, football, basketball, band, etc.)

Can a household "link" their Kroger Plus Card to more than one organization at a time?

No, the system allows for one organization per household. To change organizations, you must present your KrogerPlus Card and the new organization's barcode to the cashier.

Do I have to enroll each program year?

Yes, all organization's and participants must re-enroll for each new enrollment period. The current Neighbor to Neighbor Program is effective May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009.

How much can my organization earn?

The Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program will donate \$1 million annually. Each organization will earn a percentage of the \$1 million equal to the percentage of total earned contributions attributable to that organization.

How are the funds distributed?

Contributions will be paid via check and mailed to the organization's address and primary contact identified on the organization application form. For schools, it will be mailed to the principal and the funds distributed at their discretion.

Please feel free to contact a Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program Representative with any additional questions at 866-995-7643 or email to neighbortoneighbor@kroger.com. Additional information is also available at www.krogerneighbortoneighbor.com.

Kroger cashier: Please scan customer's KrogerPlus Card at the beginning of the order, and then scan bar code number

1 00000 80814

The customer's KrogerPlus Card is now enrolled in the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program.

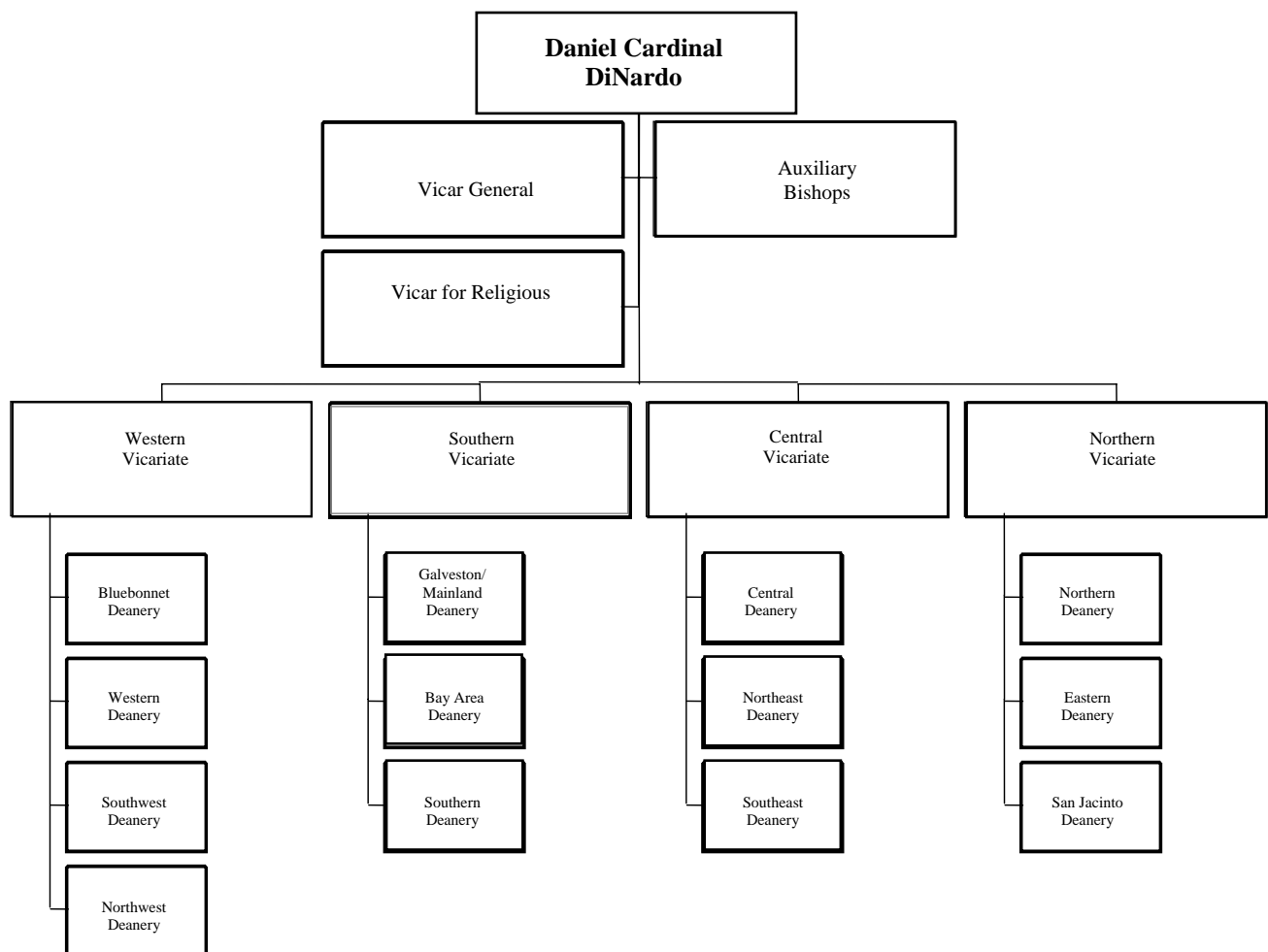
GALVESTON-HOUSTON RESPECT LIFE OFFICE-GABRIEL PROJECT® -ARCHDIOCESE OF

Archdiocesan Organization

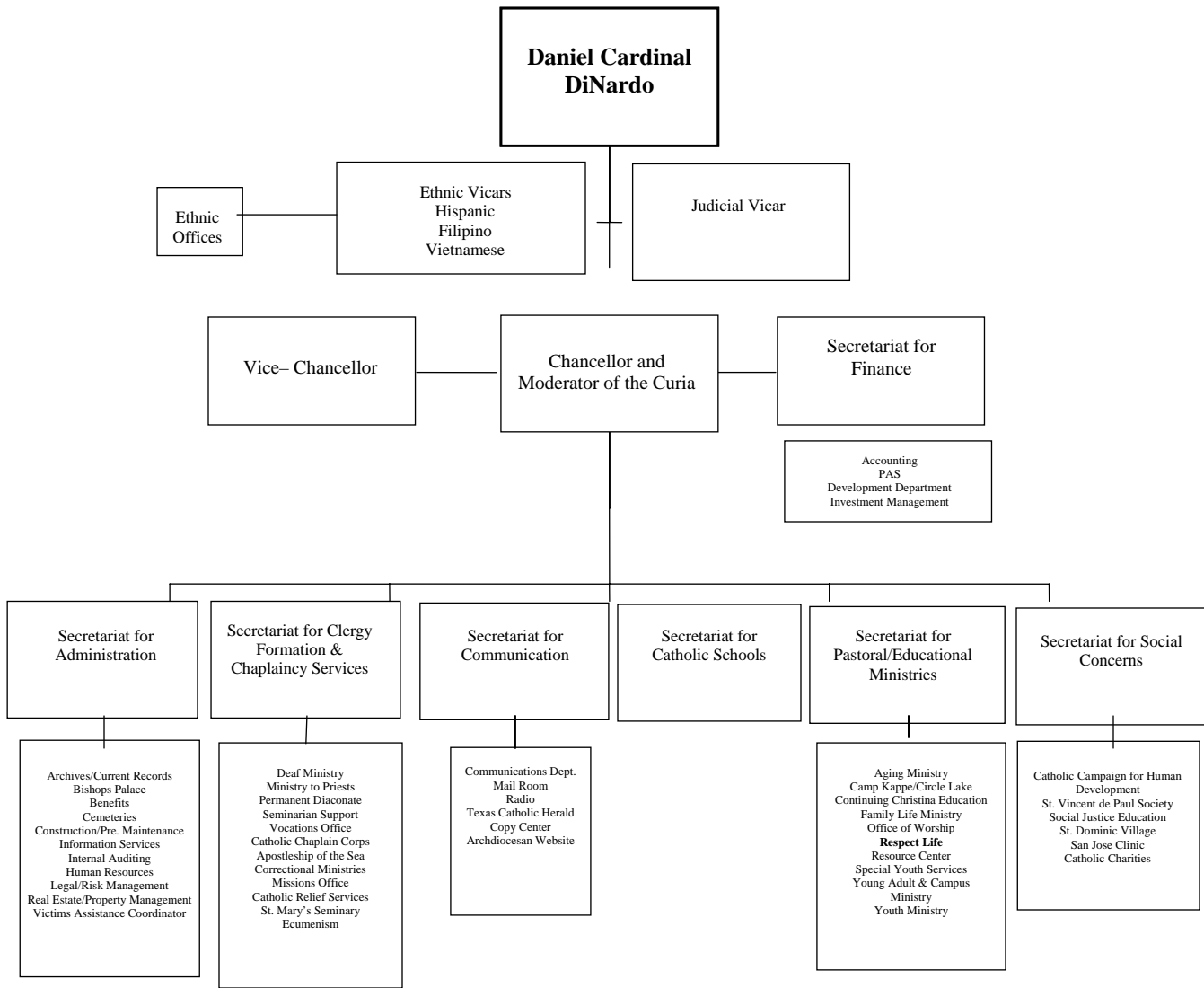
The Church is the institution founded by Christ to continue His saving mission, to teach, to sanctify and to govern. The Archbishop called by God, as direct successor of the Apostles, is head of the Church in His Diocese. He shares his mission to teach, sanctify and govern with those who work for him directly, e.g., pastor in his parish and the Archdiocesan Offices.

The Archdiocesan Church has an internal and external structure to ensure the orderly administration of the Archdiocese under the Archbishop. The internal structure is the Archdiocesan offices; the external structure is the pastor and his parish. Volunteers in parishes, including Gabriel Project® volunteers, are **Lay Ecclesial Ministers** and part of the external structure under the pastor and assigned staff members.

External Organization



Internal Organization



Parishes by Vicariate and Deanery

Central Vicariate

Central Deanery

All Saints
Annunciation
Blessed Sacrament
Christ the King
Holy Name
Holy Rosary
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral
St. Anne de Beaupre
St. Joseph
St. Mary
St. Nicholas
St. Patrick
St. Stephen

Northeast Deanery

Assumption
Our Lady of Fatima, Galena Park
Our Lady of St. John
Our Lady of Sorrows
Our Lady, Star of the Sea
Our Mother of Mercy
Resurrection
St. Charles Borromeo
St. Francis of Assisi
St. Gregory the Great
St. Leo the Great
St. Peter Claver
St. Philip of Jesus

Southeast Deanery

Blessed Juan Diego, Pasadena
Immaculate Conception
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Our Lady of Grace, South Houston
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Queen of Peace
St. Alphonsus
St. Augustine
St. Christopher
St. Francis Xavier
St. Peter the Apostle
St. Philip Neri
St. Pius V, Pasadena
Vietnamese Martyrs

Northern Vicariate

Northern Deanery

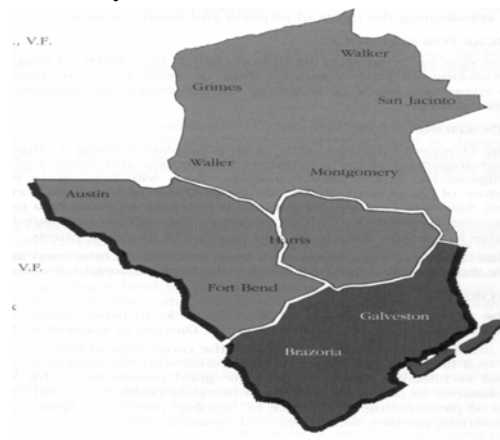
Sacred Heart, Conroe
St. Mary, Plantersville
St. Matthias, Magnolia
St. Joseph Mission, Stoneham
St. Joseph, New Waverly
Christ our Light, Navasota
St. Stephen the Martyr Mission, Point Blank
St. Stanislaus, Anderson
St. Thomas the Apostle, Huntsville

Eastern Deanery

Holy Family, McNair
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Baytown
Sacred Heart, Crosby
St. Andrew, Channelview
St. Dominic
St. John the Evangelist, Baytown
St. Joseph, Baytown
St. Jude Thaddeus, Highlands
St. Martin de Porres, Barrett Station
St. Philip, Huffman

San Jacinto Deanery

Christ the Good Shepherd, Spring
Our Lady of Lavang
Prince of Peace
St. Anne, Tomball
St. Edward, Spring
St. Ignatius Loyola, Spring
St. James the Apostle, Spring
St. John of the Cross, New Caney
St. John Neumann
St. Martha, Kingwood
St. Mary, Humble
Sts. Simon & Jude, The Woodlands
St. Anthony of Padua, The Woodlands



Southern Vicariate

Galveston/Mainland Deanery

Holy Rosary, Galveston
Mary, Star of the Sea Mission, Jamaica Beach
Our Lady of Lourdes, Hitchcock
Our Mother of Mercy, Port Bolivar
Queen of Peace Mission, Galveston
Queen of Peace, La Marque
Sacred Heart, Galveston
St. Mary Cathedral, Galveston
St. Mary, Texas City
St. Patrick, Galveston
St. Peter the Apostle, Galveston
Shrine of the True Cross, Dickinson

Bay Area Deanery

Mary Queen, Friendswood
St. Bernadette Soubirous, Clear Lake
St. Clare of Assisi, Clear Lake
St. Frances Cabrini
St. Helen, Pearland
St. Hyacinth, Deer Park
St. Luke the Evangelist
St. Mary, La Porte
St. Mary, League City
St. Paul, Nasa Area

Southern Deanery

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sweeny
Sacred Heart, Manvel
St. Anthony, Danbury
St. Basis, Angleton
St. Jerome, Clute
St. John the Baptist, Alvin
St. John the Apostle Mission, West Columbia
St. Joseph, Brazoria
St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Freeport
St. Michael, Lake Jackson

Western Vicariate

Bluebonnet Deanery

Sts. Peter & Paul, Bellville
Sacred Heart, Brookshire
St. Mary, Frydek
St. Mary, Hempstead
St. Katherine Drexel, Hempstead
Immaculate Conception Mission, Industry
St. Bartholomew, Katy
St. Edith Stein, Katy
Immaculate Conception, Sealy
Guardian Angel, Wallis

Western Deanery

Holy Family, Missouri City
Holy Rosary, Rosenberg
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Rosenberg
Sacred Heart, Richmond
Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Damon
St. John Fisher, Richmond
St. Michael, Needville
St. Theresa, Sugar Land
St. Laurence, Sugar Land
St. Thomas Aquinas, Sugar Land
St. Wenceslaus Mission, Beasley

Southwest Deanery

Ascension Chinese Mission
Christ, The Incarnate Word
Corpus Christi
Holy Ghost
Notre Dame
St. Albert
St. Anne
St. Benedict
St. Cyril of Alexandria
St. Francis de Sales
St. Justin
St. Mark the Evangelist
St. Michael
St. Raphael
St. Thomas More
St. Vincent de Paul

Northwest Deanery

Christ the Redeemer
Epiphany of the Lord, Katy
Our Lady of Czestochowa
Our Lady of Lourdes
Our Lady of Walsingham
St. Ambrose
St. Andrew Kim
St. Catherine of Siena
St. Cecilia
St. Elizabeth Anne Seton
St. Jerome
St. John Vianney
St. Matthew the Evangelist
St. Maximilian Kolbe
St. Monica
St. Rose of Lima
St. Theresa

What Is Abortion? How Abortions Are Done

Fertility in Women

Onset at 10 - 15 yrs and ends 40 - 50 yrs.

A woman's fertility is periodic: A woman is fertile only 48 hours of each month.

Fertility is controlled by the hormones Estrogen and Progesterone.

Normal Pregnancy

Pregnancy is measured from Mom's Last Menstrual Period and continues for 40 weeks.

The first signs of pregnancy are recognized at 4-5 weeks.

The baby is fully developed at 11-12 weeks.

The baby is viable outside the womb at 24 weeks.

a) Contraception as an Abortifacient (1-2 weeks)

- **Birth Control Pills**

Contain the hormones progesterone and estrogen, these low dose pills do not prevent ovulation. The egg is fertilized in the fallopian tube, then hormones cause the uterus lining to slough off preventing implantation of the conceptus. Life begins but is prevented from continuing.

- **IUD (Inter Uterine Device)**

An IUD is a spiral device of copper or silicon. Its presence causes an inflammatory response and prevents implantation of fertilized egg or conceptus.

- **The morning after pill**

Consists of a high dose of progesterone, which precipitates exfoliation of the lining of the womb preventing implantation of the conceptus.

b) Chemical Abortion (1-8 weeks)

Methotrexate (anti-cancer and rheumatic drug) and Prostaglandin (smooth muscle contraction) are used. These drugs are available by prescription only and three doctor visits are required. The abortion occurs at home. This is a recent innovation.

c) Abortion Pill - Ru-486 (1-8 weeks)

Ru-486 is an abortion inducing drug. Prostaglandin, which causes contractions, is taken 5 days later. Three office visits are required. It has not been shown to be safe and may require a surgical procedure if it is incomplete.

d) Suction Aspiration (1-6 weeks)

A hollow tube with a knife like top is put in the womb. Strong suction tears the baby into pieces. The pieces are sucked from the mother into a jar for disposal.

e) D & C Abortion (8-13 weeks) - Dilatation and Curettage

A loop shaped steel knife cuts the baby away from the wall of the mother's womb and cuts it into pieces. The pieces are removed by suction into a jar for disposal. This is the most common of all abortion methods.

f) D & E Abortion (16-20 weeks) - Dilatation and Evacuation

Specially designed tools are inserted into the uterus, which dismember the baby's body and crush its skull. The body parts are removed with forceps. There is strong evidence the baby experiences pain.

g) Saline Injection (20-40 weeks)

This method is rarely used today, as the dead baby cannot be used for medical experimentation. Salt or urea is used to poison the baby in utero. A strong salt solution is injected into the sac where the baby lives in the mother's womb. The baby inhales and swallows this poisonous solution. The baby has convulsions, internal hemorrhaging and its skin peels off. The baby dies after 2-24 hours, occasionally much longer. The mother delivers a dead (or dying) baby within 24-48 hours.

h) D & X Abortion (20-40 weeks) - Dilatation and Extraction or Partial-Birth Abortion

The baby's body is delivered breech (feet, buttocks first). Before the baby's head is delivered, a long hollow tube is inserted in the base of the skull and the baby's brain is extracted, this kills the baby and delivery is completed. The brain tissue is used for medical experimentation in Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other diseases.

i) Hysterectomy (premature Caesarian section) (20 + weeks)

The baby is born alive. However, no attempt is made to sustain its life. The cord is cut and the baby is set aside to die.

j) Invitro Fertilization

In fertility problems, genetic studies and for research the egg (up to 10) is extracted from the woman's ovary and fertilized in a petri dish with male sperm. The excess fertilized eggs, not implanted in the mother, are destroyed or frozen for future use.

k) Selective Reduction Abortion (20+ weeks)

This occurs where there are multiple pregnancies, due to the use of fertility drugs or invitro fertilization, or when one or more of the babies is disabled or diseased. With the use of ultrasound a needle is inserted in the baby's heart and a solution of K⁺ (potassium) is injected which kills the baby(ies). The dead baby (ies)' remains are delivered with the births of the other child (ren).

Complications of Abortion for Mom

- **Hemorrhage** - most abortion clinics are not equipped to handle these emergencies. Death sometimes occurs on the way to the hospital.
- **Infection** - as with any surgery, infection can always occur. Abortion clinics are not regulated as are all other medical facilities and standards are low. There is no patient follow up.
- **Damaged cervix** - the cervix (opening to the womb or uterus) has to be stretched artificially to access the baby. Often this damages the cervix and results in later miscarriages of "wanted" children or premature birth.
- **Perforation of the uterus** - the tools used in an abortion are very sharp and since the abortionist cannot see inside the womb, sometimes the uterus is cut.
- **Perforation of the bowel or urinary bladder** - as above except that the cut extends through the uterus wall into the bowel behind or bladder in front.
- **DEATH!** due to some combination of above or an air or fat embolism.

Delayed Complications of Abortion for Mom

- Stillborn & handicapped babies (rare)
- Miscarriages
- Impaired child-bearing ability
- Premature births
- Low birth weight babies
- Ectopic pregnancies
- Depression, emotional problems (post abortion syndrome)

General Guidelines for Counseling Pregnant Minors Who are Being Forced to have an Abortion

When counseling a pregnant minor, who feels threatened that she will be forced to have an abortion, it is important to understand a few basic rules.

If contacted on the telephone: You may explain to her that she has a right to refuse to have an abortion, even if she needs to take what appears to be drastic measures, such as leaving home. Ask if anyone in her family supports her to decision to remain pregnant: an aunt, grandmother, older sister, etc... If not, does she have a friend or a friend's parents, who would be willing to provide her with temporary housing and perhaps talk to her parents on her behalf. Often, parents of a pregnant minor may need time to accept this new reality. Time and prayer may be enough to soften a parents resolve to force their daughter to have an abortion.

If a pregnant minor feels immediately threatened, (for example, the abortion is already scheduled and she knows her parents will force her to go) **she should be counseled to get out of the house herself.** Even if it is only for a short period, she needs to go to a friend's house or some place where a counselor can meet her. At that time the counselor may have her sign a notarized statement indicating that she does not consent to an abortion. Then, if she must return to her home, she can call the counselor with the time and place of the abortion. The counselor can meet her at the clinic with the sworn affidavit, which should discourage the clinic from performing the abortion. **Under no circumstances will the counselor or volunteer pick the girl up from her home and take her away. You could be charged with kidnapping.** However, if a minor has already left home of her own free will and is living on the street or staying with friends, you may drive her to a doctor appointment or a women's shelter. In this case, you are helping a runaway.

You may, of course, be able to convince the parents and/or the girl that you would like to talk to her and her parents about the decision they are about to make. Often, the resistance that parents show toward talking rationally with their daughter can be ameliorated when another adult who seems to have information and evidence steps in.

Obviously, the most desirable outcome in these instances is **to reconcile the family.** If this reconciliation occurs, the follow-up counseling is extremely important for all members of the family. A priest or deacon should be called for spiritual guidance, if the parents permit this. In addition, information on procedures to offer the newborn for adoption should be presented as an option at this time.

The Gabriel Project® has worked with grandmothers whose granddaughters were being coerced to abort and the grandmother housed her until the mother's anger subsided. Also, the parents of the baby's father may have pro-life sentiments and want to save the pregnant minor from a regrettable decision. We have worked with several mothers of friends, who took a pregnant girl in for a few months, until she delivered the baby. Again, counseling toward adoption is extremely important in these instances.

The best preparation for all these situations is daily prayer. With the grace of the Holy Spirit and knowledge of the law you will be able to help prevent a pregnant minor from aborting her baby.

When Mom Wants to Abort Her Child

Why is this such a difficult situation?

- You the volunteer are frightened you will not be able to prevent Mom from aborting her child.
- You are concerned about your ability to help Mom do the right thing,
- You want some assurance there is a way to stop Mom from aborting her child.

The outcome depends on Mom alone. All you can do is help Mom with her difficulties.

- Ask God to help you. Let Him take care of you. **Forget about yourself.** Focus on Mom and her needs.
- The only person you can help is Mom. If you help her, she may not abort. If she aborts that is her choice. Remember, she is often being coerced to abort by the father, her family and friends.
- Does Mom know how far along in her pregnancy she is? It is very important for her to know. Make sure she has an appointment to see her doctor for medical care.
- **Usually Mom is not thinking about the baby;** her focus is on her difficulties which are often overwhelming. You must discuss her difficulties with her, not the baby.

What Can You Do?

- **LISTEN** to Mom. Only speak to encourage her to tell her story. Ask open ended questions
Tell me more
You must have been very upset
Then what happened?
What do you think will happen?
Who is there to help you etc.
- **Hear all the background.** Age, circumstances of pregnancy, her family, parents, brothers and sisters, the child's father, her work, education, hopes for her future. Make sure to let her know all the ways you can help her.
- **Reach out in love to help her.** Your tone of voice and way of talking to her tells her much more about you than anything you can say. She will judge whether you are loving and trustworthy by your attitude and way of behaving towards her.

What NOT to do

- Talk only about the baby.
- Give a lecture on the evils of abortion.
- Criticize her. Argue with her.
- Let her see or hear about your difficulties. This is about Mom not you.

Abortion and Canon Law

It is commonly thought that the Church excommunicates people who have procured a successful abortion. In fact, in probably the majority of cases, mitigating circumstances prevent the censure of excommunication from being incurred. The tragedy of abortion triggers distinct and separate questions regarding the personal responsibility of one who procures a successful abortion: has a sin been committed? And, has a crime been committed?

A sin is a purposeful and deliberate offense against the will of God; an utterance, a deed or a willfully-entertained desire contrary to God's law. Objectively, abortion is a mortal sin, gravely contrary to the moral law.

A crime is a violation of a church law or precept that has been formally established by an ecclesiastical authority which has legislative power (cf. cc 1311 & 1315). While it might be surprising to many people, actually very few sins have been established by the church as also being crimes. But among those few sins that are crimes, abortion clearly is included (c. 1398)

Going hand-in-glove with crime is the reality of penalty, which is a sanction established by Church law that may be applied against a person who commits a crime to motivate that person to return to the Church's way of life (cf. c. 1311). According to the Code of Canon Law, both a person who procures a successful abortion, incur the automatic (*latae sententiae*) penalty of excommunication (cf. cc. 1398; 1329, S2; & 1314). Actually, excommunication is a censure which should be seen as a medicinal penalty, meaning that it is intended to foster repentance and reconciliation (cf. c. 1312, S1, 1°). Thus, excommunication may be applied only until the offender accepts God's healing grace and repents, at which time the excommunication is to be lifted in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In other words, the Church has established excommunication as a penalty in cases of abortion to give witness to the gravity of the offense not perceived by the secular society, rather than as a permanent stigma for the offender to bear.

A few terms deserve explanation. Abortion is the killing of an embryo or fetus by whatever means, and at whatever time from the moment of conception to birth. Procure means to acquire, obtain, induce, or cause directly and intentionally by means of physical or moral action. Consequently, a person who actively participates in the abortive act procures the abortion. Successful means the goal is attained, not simply desired, intended and/or attempted. Hence, while the desire, intention and/or attempt of an abortion would be gravely sinful, they do not constitute the crime of abortion.

So, can we say that all persons who procure a successful abortion in this strict legal sense are automatically excommunicated? No, because, just as civil law recognizes mitigating circumstances that remove or reduce responsibility, so does Church law. Thus, the following persons are never subject to any penalty for procuring a successful abortion (cf. c. 1323):

- One who habitually lacks the use of reason.
- One who has not yet completed the sixteenth year of age.
- One who without any fault was unaware of violating a law or precept of the church (even though aware that abortion is a serious/mortal sin).
- One who acted under compulsion by physical force or in virtue of a mere accident which could neither be foreseen nor prevented when foreseen.
- One who acted out of grave fear, even if only relatively grave (grave fear is an internal response of a person to the credible threat of serious evil to be inflicted by another person).

Next, the following persons are not subject to an automatic penalty for procuring a successful abortion, although a penalty might be imposed as a result of a church process (cf.c. 1324):

- One with only the imperfect use of reason.
- One who lacked the use of reason due to drunkenness or another similar mental disturbance which was culpable.
- One acting in the serious heat of passion which did not precede and impede all deliberation of mind and consent of the will, as long as the passion itself had not been voluntarily stirred up or fostered.
- A minor who has completed the age of sixteen years but is not yet eighteen years of age.
- A person who was forced through grave fear, even if only relatively grave.
- One who without any fault was unaware that a penalty was attached to the law or precept. Therefore, for a person to be automatically excommunicated that person must have procured a successful abortion or have been an accomplice to a successful abortion and:
 - Possess perfect use of reason.
 - Been at least 18 years of age.
 - Been aware that church law includes the penalty of excommunication for the crime of abortion (this is different from simply knowing that abortion is a serious or mortal sin).
 - Been able to exercise his or her free will and not operating out of grave fear, serious heat of passion, drunkenness or another similar mental disturbance.

The censure of excommunication can be removed by the Archdiocesan bishop and those priests who have the faculty to do so within the diocese, using the formula provided in Appendix 1 to the Rite of Penance (cf. c. 1354-1357).

Finally, let's look at what it means to be excommunicated. The penalty of excommunication forbids a member of the Church (cf.c. 1331):

- To have any ministerial participation in celebrating the Eucharistic Sacrifice or in any other ceremonies whatsoever of public worship.
- To celebrate the sacraments and to receive the sacraments.
- To discharge any ecclesiastical office, ministry or function whatsoever, or to place any act of governance.

Please note carefully, however, that an excommunicated person, although outside the sacramental life of the Church and unable to exercise authority of ministry within the Church, still remains a member of the Church, still is a Catholic. Moreover, an excommunicated person is not prohibited from attending Mass or other public acts of worship, nor from taking part in private acts of prayer or devotion. In fact, these should be encouraged so as to help the excommunicated person to become contrite and to reform his or her life.

If you have any further questions about abortion and canon law, you may want to contact a canonist in your diocese.

Post-Abortion Ministry – A Resource Manual for Priests, by the Secretariat for Priestly Life and Ministry and the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, USCCB

Rape, Emergency Contraception and the Church

"Emergency Contraceptives" are multiple-dose oral contraceptives taken after intercourse. The pills have four possible mechanisms:

- (1) suppressing ovulation
- (2) altering cervical mucus to hinder the transport of sperm
- (3) slowing the transport of the ovum
- (4) inhibiting implantation of the newly conceived human embryo

Which of these mechanisms is operative depends on when the pills are taken. If taken before ovulation, EC may delay or inhibit ovulation, thereby preventing conception. If taken after the LH surge which triggers ovulation, EC will not disrupt ovulation in that cycle, but can inhibit implantation of the developing embryo, which is an abortion.

Treatment of Victims of Sexual Assault

Victims of sexual assault should be treated with compassion and understanding. Health care providers who treat sexual assault victims should provide medically accurate information and offer spiritual and psychological support.

A woman who has been raped should be able to defend herself from a potential conception and receive treatments to suppress ovulation and incapacitate sperm. If conception has occurred, however, a Catholic hospital will not dispense drugs to interfere with implantation of a newly conceived human.

Hospitals should develop appropriate protocols to determine whether administering emergency contraception would have an abortifacient effect. Blood tests to determine progesterone levels and urine tests to determine whether ovulation has occurred should be done

Laws Mandating the Administration of "Emergency Contraception" To Rape Victims

The proposed federal "Compassionate Care for Female Sexual Assault Survivors Act" (H.R. 4113) and similar legislation in the states would force

- All hospitals, even hospitals with pro-life policies, to administer abortifacient drugs to rape victims.
- Require hospitals to provide the pills to teenagers who engage in consensual intercourse in violation of state laws on statutory rape.
- Requires health care providers to misinform women about how emergency contraception works, violating norms for informed consent. Specifically, the bill mandates that hospitals tell the women that "emergency contraception" is not abortifacient.

Conclusion

The law should not require hospitals to administer so-called "emergency contraception" when those drugs will end the life of a newly conceived human embryo. Hospitals can offer rape victims treatments that are truly contraceptive and address their other needs with compassion and respect.

Reconciliation & Healing in our Work for Life

Reconciliation and Healing is at the center of all work for life to bring back order, peace and fulfillment in Christ to all those caught up in so much evil, often unknowingly.

- Evangelization** Bringing Christ to others in your person.
Helping others in practical and simple ways.
Showing concern for them, not yourself.
- Conversion** A work of the Holy Spirit – but we must pray for those we help, place them
in God's hands and wait for them to respond. Often we will not see this happen.
- Reconciliation** Coming to know God is so full of love for each of us, so full of mercy, Mom is
open to admitting fault on her part and aware of the need for forgiveness, from
others and from God. This is very difficult needing Faith and overcoming the past
- Confessing** The release from sorrow and burdens, the relief in being back with God and the
Church, the peace which follows confessing one's sins cannot be described. Mom
is back in the land of the living.
- Absolution** The only true healing with true peace follows absolution.
- Forgiveness** Only God can forgive and heal us fully. He will help us to forgive others if we
only ask. Psychotherapy is not a substitute for reconciliation and healing.

On God's Mercy: Encyclical on God the Father and First Social Encyclical from Our Holy Father John Paul II

- Revelation of the Father's mercy in Christ.
- Jesus preaches the Gospel of mercy.
- God's mercy already at work in the history of the people of Israel.
- The true nature of mercy and the dignity conferred on human beings by God's merciful love.
- Jesus' death and resurrection is the fullest revelation of divine mercy, a mercy stronger than sin and death.
- Contemporary plight of humanity and its need for a mercy which goes beyond justice.
- The Church's program of mercy: Her duty to proclaim and practice it.
- Everyone to implore God's mercy on humanity.

Conversation

At the root of all successful conversation is treating Mom as you would wish to be treated yourself. Conversation refers to all meaningful exchanges between Mom and her Angel. It is not just words, it is the meaning of those words as understood by Mom and her Angel. Misunderstanding can readily occur. Hence the need for the Angel to prepare herself, and learn on the job, the art of conversation

We take part in interpersonal conversation all the time, with our families, friends, and colleagues at work. As caring helpers we must understand that listening is more important than talking.

Conversation can be:

- The spoken word
- Body posture and gesture
- Voice, tone and inflection

Of these, the most telling is voice tone and inflection, then body posture and gesture and then the spoken work, yet we often tend to put more importance on the spoken word.

In a one on one relationship, we continuously communicate whether we speak or not. The effective Angel must become aware of the impact her tone of voice, inflection, body posture and gestures have on Mom. Angels must know how to evaluate non-verbal conversation from Mom to gain a better understanding of her situation.

Moms need:

- To be dealt with as individuals rather than as a type, a category or a case.
- To express her feelings and thoughts, both negative and positive.
- To be accepted as a person of worth, with innate dignity regardless of the person's dependency, weakness, faults or failures.
- A sympathetic understanding of and response to the feelings and thoughts expressed.
- Not to be condemned for the difficulty in which Mom finds herself.
- To make her own choices and decisions concerning her own life. She needs help, not commands.
- To keep confidential information secret. Mom does not want to exchange her reputation for the help which she will receive.

A Mom in need wishes, and sometimes desperately needs, a pleasant and helpful welcome. Mom needs a good listener who will be understanding, be empathetic, discreet, non-judgmental and non-patronizing.

Sympathy is required, but over identification with Mom on the Angels part will do more harm than good. If the Angel's problems are too much to the forefront, she will be unable to help Mom. The Angel must be detached from her own difficulties so she can concentrate objectively on Mom's needs.

Remember, we are here to be faithful to God and to Mom, not to guarantee results. All results are in God's loving, merciful and providential hands; the Angel is His instrument.

Active Listening

Active listening is just that; choosing to listen and understand what Mom is talking about. The Angel must listen at a number of levels, to what is being overtly said and to what Mom is not talking about or dropping hints. Slow down and allow Mom to express her thoughts and feelings and tell her story. With an attitude of unconditional love you will listen more effectively and compassionately.

All too often the Angel feels obliged to come up with a solution every time Mom mentions a problem. **This is not so.** In the initial stages of a visit, it is much more important to listen. Before Mom will hear you and pay attention to your advice, she needs to know you have heard her and understand her.

Only after you have a thorough understanding of Mom's situation can you help her work on solutions.

There are two ways to Listen Actively: Restatement & Rephrasing

The Active Listener acts as a mirror or sounding board, reflecting what Mom has said **without adding his or her own perceptions and responses.** This part of communicating focuses on the content of factual information communicated to you by the Mom.

In **Restatement** the Angel repeats what the mom has said almost word for word. This is simple. When used properly it is very effective in helping Mom discuss her difficulties.

In **Rephrasing** the Angel summarizes what has been said in her own words. This is very helpful if Mom has given a lot of information or is upset and incoherent. The Angel can help clarify what has been said by paraphrasing the most important parts of what the mom has expressed.

It is important to use a tentative tone of voice when restating or rephrasing. This encourages the mom to continue talking and allows her the freedom to correct any misperceptions of the volunteer.

Interpretive Listening

Interpretive listening enables the Angel to understand the thoughts and feelings that underlie Mom's statements. This helps Mom to understand and explore what she is really feeling in a non-threatening environment.

The Angel needs to understand how Mom feels and thinks about her situation and about all the important people in her life and other relevant factors. The Angel must guard against making inaccurate assumptions, and against making comments or suggestions based on those assumptions. **The desire to understand mom's feelings demonstrates that we are sincerely interested in her, not merely in her decision about the baby.**

The first step in interpretive listening is listening for feelings. The Angel listens carefully to the mom's words, (including voice tone and inflection), and observes body posture and gestures to gather clues that answer the question of how she is feeling. Listening for feelings involves trying to identify what is going on below the surface of the conversation.

Asking Questions

All questions must lead to a better understanding of Mom. Learn to recognize the different types of questions and their purpose.

Close-ended questions are answered with a yes or no. They are very good for obtaining factual information, but not information on feelings, motivation etc. However, teenage Moms especially prefer this type of question because they are easily answered without going into details.

Why questions allow Mom to talk about her reasons, including moral reasons, for acting a certain way. They can also imply judgment. If Mom becomes defensive, rephrase the question another way: What caused you to...? What made you decide to...? How did you come to...?

Rapid-fire are several questions in one sentence. They confuse Mom and are a poor communication technique. **Never ask more than one question at a time.**

- **Questions containing the answer** are used to state opinions rather than to gain information. The Angel should **never** use a question to manipulate Mom into a preferred response.
- **Open Ended Questions:** Encourage Mom to talk about herself. They are based on something the Mom has said and are used to explore the situation in greater depth. They also provide a model for solving future problems.

Examples:

1. How do you feel about being pregnant?
2. What makes you feel that abortion is the best solution for you?
3. What were the circumstances that led up to his leaving you?

Reconciliation and Healing

Reconciliation and healing is central to helping Mom. Only in this way will she be able, with God's love and help, and the help of her Angel bring order, peace and fulfillment into her life, whatever the difficulties.

The Angel must bring Christ to Mom in her person, helping her in practical ways, always showing concern for Mom not herself. This is the new evangelization.

The only true healing with true peace follows absolution.

The Angel must pray for Mom and place her in God's hands, waiting for Mom to respond to the working of the Holy Spirit. Often we will not see this happen but the Gabriel Project® is full of wonderful stories of conversion.

In coming to know God is so full of love for each of us, so full of mercy, Mom is open to admitting fault on her part and aware of the need for forgiveness, from others and from God. This is the beginning of true Reconciliation

The release from sorrow and burdens, the relief in being back with God and the Church, the peace which follows confessing one's sins, cannot be described. Mom is back in the land of the living.

Only God can forgive and heal us fully. He will help us to forgive others if we only ask. Psychotherapy or counseling is not a substitute for reconciliation and healing.

The Angel must remember that a priest is always available to help Mom and she should suggest to Mom she can go to him for spiritual advice and guidance.

The Madonnina by Mark Lavergne

The painting widely known as Madonna of the Streets has been widely reproduced on Christmas cards and holy cards, yet few who affectionately view it know its history. It is often believed that the image depicts the Virgin Mary and her son our Lord Jesus Christ. The reality is less easy to guess, and perhaps more intriguing.

The history of the painting first became uncovered when Sister Angela Marie, born Mary Bovo, a first generation American nun of Italian descent, began to trace her familial roots.

Throughout her life, Sister Angela Marie had been haunted by questions about her ancestors. With the death of her father in 1929 and the mental breakdown of her mother shortly thereafter, she had lost her only links to her relatives in Italy.

Her sisters in the order of Saint Joseph de Carondelet encouraged her to go to Italy to rediscover her roots, and so she did in 1984. She located two of her mother's sisters who by then had reached the winter of their earthly lives. One of them, her Aunt Giulia, had something special to show her niece. It was a likeness, a painting, of Sister Angela Marie Bovo's mother, Angelina, when she was quite young. But it wasn't just any painting: it was Robert Ferruzzi's Madonnina, known today as Madonna of the Streets. Sister Angela Marie had seen prints of the popular portrait and had always assumed, like many, that it was another image of Mary and the baby Jesus.

It turned out the young girl in the picture was her very own mother, at the tender age of eleven. This obviously meant that the child in the picture was not her son (although these days that possibility could not be immediately ruled out). The baby was in fact Angelina's younger brother, Angela's uncle, Giovanni.

Ferruzzi had been in Venice in the late nineteenth century when he noticed the girl with the baby. She was holding the baby close to her body to help them both stay warm against the cold. Though Ferruzzi could see that she was not the child's mother, he was struck by the scene as a moving image of motherhood and managed somehow to convince the girl to model for him.

Angela soon reported the little adventure to her mother, who was so shocked that she swore her daughter to secrecy. Apparently, her daughter never shared the secret with anyone, including her children.

Ferruzzi entitled the piece "Madonnina," meaning "Little Mother." He insisted after the painting became popular that the subjects depicted were not nor were they intended to be seen as the Virgin Mary and the child Jesus. Still, Catholic art lovers in Italy and later on in America widely perceived it as a fresh and moving depiction of the holy Mother and Son. The image is widely dubbed "Madonna of the Streets" today, although the family of Angelina Bovo reportedly prefers the former title of "Little Mother," as use of the phrase "of the streets" in their eyes implies prostitution.

Whatever its title, the widespread belief that the persons depicted in the painting are the Blessed Virgin and the infant Jesus is a testament to how indelibly etched is their image in the souls of every woman and little child. The images of Jesus and Mary are indeed seen in the faces of all those whom the Gabriel Project® seeks to serve.



Gabriel Sunday

Meet the Gabriel Project® in Our Parish Next Week

The Gabriel Project® is the parish-based pastoral care outreach to women in a crisis pregnancy. Manned by Parish volunteers called **Gabriel Angels** who:

- ***Offers human help and support*** to pregnant women in difficulties, meeting those who suffer where they are, and helping them to come to the Church for help and support. The Gabriel Angel brings Christ to Mom in her own person. The volunteer meets Christ in Mom's person.
- ***Work in collaboration*** with other parish and Arch-diocesan Agencies to provide the best of care, mostly free, for Mom.
- ***Pre-Natal, Delivery and Post-Natal Care With A Catholic Health Care Provider.***
- ***Mother & Baby Assistance*** Parish baby showers collect supplies for Mothers & Babies in need.
- ***Project Rachel*** is the outreach to women (and men) who have had an abortion or been involved in an abortion decision, offering confidential care, counseling, reconciliation and healing.
- ***Society of St. Vincent de Paul*** provides person to person services to individuals in need, giving emergency assistance with food, clothing, rent and utilities.
- ***Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning,***
- ***Parish Social Ministry,*** usually an outreach of Catholic Charities, provides professional social service at the parish and helps Gabriel Moms obtain their benefits including Medicaid, WIC, etc.
- ***Catholic Charities,*** often provides
 - ***Services to Pregnant Minor Adolescents and their families.***
 - ***Adoption, foster care, and post adoption services***



For more information call



Gabriel Sunday

Meet the Gabriel Project® in Our Parish Next Week

The Gabriel Project® is the parish-based pastoral care outreach to women in a crisis pregnancy. Manned by Parish volunteers called **Gabriel Angels** who:

- Offers human help and support to pregnant women in difficulties, meeting those who suffer where they are, and inviting them to come to the Church for help and support. The Gabriel Angel brings Christ to Mom in her own person. The Gabriel Angel meets Christ in Mom's person.
- Encourage collaborative ministry working in solidarity with all the other ministries and apostolates in the parish and Diocese, i.e., parish social ministry, Catholic Charities, NFP, Post Abortion Healing, St. Vincent de Paul, Medical referrals,
- Through an apostolate of friendship and of presence, relying on their own special gifts, live out the like-with-like apostolate of the laity.
- Are drawn closer to God, through acts of self giving to others and through a greater reliance on prayer and worship in their own lives.
- Offer the opportunity for personal and sacramental reconciliation and healing so needed by so many today.
- Implement *The Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life* through this pastoral response to pregnant mothers in need and their unborn children.

The Gabriel Project®

Call

Full Training and follow up provided.