Findings and Proposed Solutions

St. Brigid Parish-wide Meeting

OCTOBER 2026

A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

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

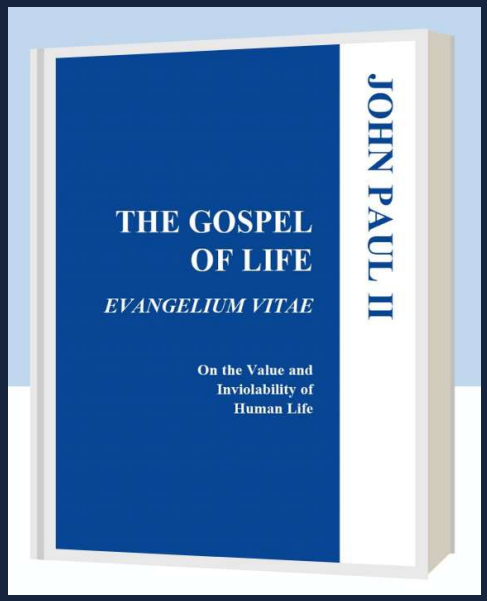
Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

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

A message from Fr. Wojciech



What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?



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

What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?

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

- *Walking with Moms in Need* is a process in which Catholic parishes and communities **"walk in the shoes"** of local pregnant and parenting women in need.

What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?

- We know that pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods, but in desperation, they may be turning to other places for help.
- Women facing challenging pregnancies should see the Church as a place where they can find help.
- We need to honestly assess the pastoral and practical assistance that we currently provide to pregnant moms and families in need. How effective are we in communicating such help?

***Everyone* should know how to help moms in difficult circumstances.**

What is “Walking with Moms in Need”?

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

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

Walking with Moms in Our Parish

- In answer to the calls of St. Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis, our parish core team has completed an inventory of local resources, identified gaps, and proposed possible responses.

- During this gathering we will review these findings and ask for your ideas, suggestions, and input on ways our parish can serve mothers in need based on the inventory results.

Inventory Findings

- WWMIN is a deeply personal ministry - our Catholic sisters deserve a forum to support each other.
- St Brigid parish and school host a wide range of support to families. However, parishioner knowledge of available resources is lacking.
- Community resources were supportive of WWMIN mission & willing to partner with WWMIN.
- WWMIN discovered which resources were aligned to Catholic teaching and filtered out resources that went against the Catholic faith.
- Identified volunteer opportunities honoring compassionate care and multiple skillsets

Inventory Findings: Resources

69
Identified and evaluated 69 community resources

42+ Documented Local Services:

Pregnancy Support & Adoption
Housing, Food, Financial
Mental Health
Legal
Domestic Abuse…and much more

106
Parish Support Network consists of 106 parishioners.

WWMIN team initiated networking with local community resources

Established a WWMIN presence at the Zion Resource Center – referrals of Catholics to St. Brigid parish

Inventory Findings: Gaps

- Respect Life is not active at St Brigid; Respect Life ministry pages on St Brigid sites are outdated
- Local organizations and St. Brigid are not aware of their respective community presence, resources and ministries.
- Statistics show Catholic women are post-abortive; St. Brigid has no ministry to mentor or offer support for our mothers & fathers in the faith (24-28% post-abortive women identify as Catholic).
- Catholic brothers/sisters encounter stages of life without a St Brigid ministry to address key events: birth, miscarriage, suffering, prenatal diagnoses, birth/adoption, grandparents needs, etc.
- Address/identify a resource for women suffering miscarriage; also support fathers through their grief.
- Lack of childcare at St Brigid sponsored events and OCIA can prevent parents from attending; impacts faith formation, quality parish life, etc.
- Parents would benefit from a form of support for their children during mass (i.e add Faith-based books to the library for use during mass by children).

These GAPS and others prevent women from quickly locating resources in their time of need.



St. Brigid WWMIN: Two Goals

Create an online St. Brigid resource hub for parish staff, parishioners, and the broader community.

Completed

Identify gaps in support and develop a St. Brigid Parish Response to better serve pregnant and parenting mothers.

Needs parish feedback & support

Goal: Create Online Resource - Completed



Volunteer(s) needed to maintain links, add/revise content as needed

- Comprehensive list of community resources & parish support
- Parishioners and visitors to St. Brigid site now have visibility to Catholic-friendly resources
- To be posted on St Brigid website: WWMIN ministry page & Home page as a link
- St. Pat's Food Pantry Resource Sheet
- Cards & Lawn Signs to promote site

Parish Response

Solutions to identified gaps



Proposed Parish Response #1

Respect Life Ministry

Re-establish Respect Life Ministry

Revise the Respect Life page on St Brigid sites to reflect mission, events, contact, prayer, email list

40 Days for Life, Annual Day of Reflection & Bible Study for post-abortive healing, etc.

Addresses Gaps

Embraces and builds Culture of Life

Supports parish awareness and communication plan

Facilitates participation in life

Volunteer Needs

St. Brigid Respect Life team

Respect Life activities, i.e. Respect Life Month

Support for 40 Days for Life Leader

Host events, bible studies, Bulletin articles, answer questions, etc.

RESPECT LIFE

Proposed Parish Response #2

Start the Rosebud Program

Helps a church pray for, and support those who are pregnant, celebrating birth or adoption, grieving miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion, infant or child death, waiting to become pregnant or adopt, grandparent concerns, and troubled times.

Designated area in church for a vase and roses; color identifies need (birth, loss, fertility, etc.)

Prayer requests & prayer cards

Addresses Gaps

Provides a ministry/resource to spiritually support women experiencing life in all its stages

Provides parish opportunity to unite in prayer for our brothers & sisters



Volunteer Needs

Check the vase weekly for prayer request & distribute to prayer groups

Reach out to parishioners if requested on their prayer card



Proposed Parish Responses #3

Host quarterly faith-based presentations

St Brigid WWMIN to host a presentation

Invite speakers & community resource contacts; provide dinner and have activities for the children available

Addresses Gaps

Supports faith formation & fellowship

Builds “Culture of Life”

Volunteer Needs

Coordinate set-up, work with team to provide & serve meal

Bulletin articles

Proposed Parish Response #4

Provide childcare for key St. Brigid activities

Provide childcare so parents can attend faith building events

OLH school supplies for pre-school/kindergarten are avail

A meeting space will be needed

Addresses Gaps

Supports faith formation, St Brigid community fellowship for parents and children

Offers safe and secure childcare so that parents can attend parish events

Volunteer Needs

Join a team to support childcare at planned St. Brigid events

Will need to be Virtus certified

WWMIN sponsored events, Encounter Healing service, OCIA nights, Parish Mission, etc

Proposed Parish Response #5

St Brigid Coffee with a Mom

Connect women with each other to build relationships in faith

Matched partners would set a goal to meet regularly

share coffee, life, attend church, workshops together, faith-building activities, etc.

Addresses Gaps

Provides a ministry/resource for women to spiritually support women experiencing life in all its stages

Builds Culture of Life, bonding, family, fellowship

Volunteer Needs

Women willing to build friendships with other women

Women willing to share their testimony, wisdom, faith, encourage and support to other women



Proposed Parish Response #6

St Brigid quarterly donations to community resources

Quarterly Drive:

Keeping Families Covered (Diaper or Feminine products)

Volunteer groups to pack supplies

Donate baby equipment, baby clothing, etc. to local organizations

Addresses Gap

Supports community needs

Builds partnerships with community resources

Volunteer Needs

Coordinate drives & volunteer events

Bulletin articles, etc.

Keeping Families Covered®

Hygiene Products for Every Age and Stage

Proposed Parish Response #7

Partner with Mother's Trust Foundation

St Brigid to become an approved partner to submit requests on behalf of women in need

Removes the need for a request to be vetted, saving precious time (48-hour turnaround from request to distribution)

Addresses Gaps

Provides support in time of greatest need

St Brigid community presence

Volunteer Needs (3 minimum)

WWMIN volunteer to be point of contact to submit requests to Mother's Trust

Car seat, stroller

MOTHERS TRUST FOUNDATION

Parishioners are invited to raise their voice.

Vote on which solutions would best shape the new St Brigid WWMIN ministry.

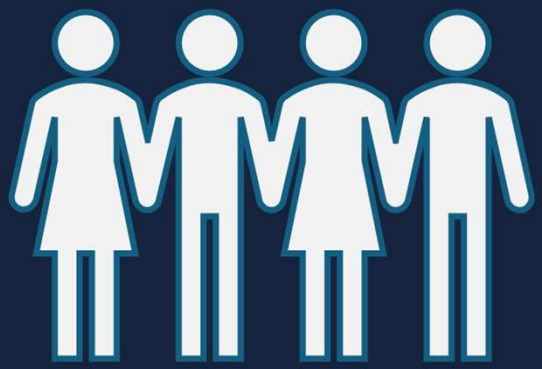
1. Re-establish Respect Life Ministry (team & 40 Days for Life support)
2. Rosebud Program (outreach to family during all stages of life)
3. Host quarterly faith-based presentations
4. Provide childcare for key St. Brigid activities
5. St. Brigid Coffee with a Mom
6. Quarterly donations to community resources
7. Approved partner for Mother's Trust

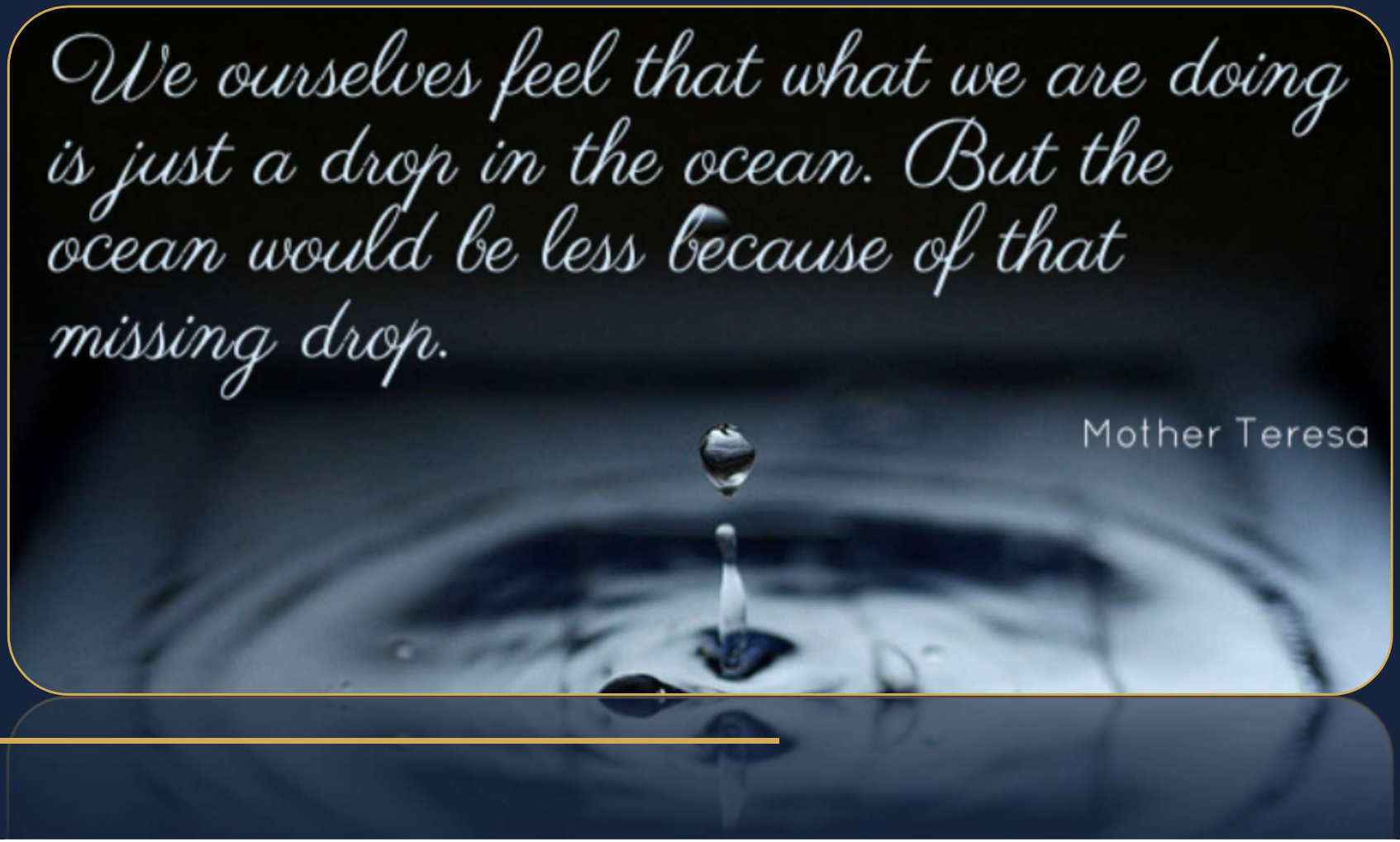


Take the WWMIN Parish Response Survey thru 11/7:

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY

- At the conclusion of this meeting
- Form located in the narthex/vestibule – complete and place in drop box
- Using the QR Code provided at the end of this presentation or in the Bulletin through 11/7

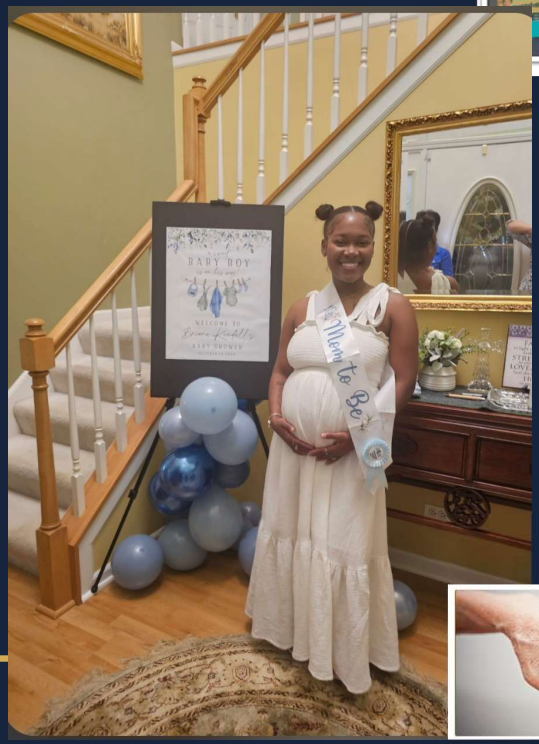



We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.
Mother Teresa

Walking with Moms in Need 2026

- Hosted Fellowship Sunday in May
- Keeping Families Covered Diaper Drive
- Hosted Respect Life October
- Hosted Baby Shower
- Hosted Gospel of Life Summer Study





Keeping Families Covered

Thank you to everyone who supported the first St. Brigid Walking with Moms in Need Diaper Drive! All praise and glory to God – thanks to St. Brigid parishioners, a total of 3,694 essential care items were donated for infants, toddlers and seniors in need!



"We are truly grateful for your partnership, generosity, and commitment to supporting our community. Thank you for choosing to make a difference and for helping us ensure that local families have access to these essential items"
Keeping Families Covered







SUMMER STUDY:
GOSPEL OF LIFE
7-8:30PM

WWMIN Volunteer Needs

To have a thriving WWMIN ministry will depend on volunteers. The time commitment for volunteer roles will vary by activity and may be ongoing or occasional.

Volunteer via the survey or speak with a WWMIN team member.

Ongoing Volunteer Needs Walking with Moms in Need Team
St Brigid Respect Life team
WWMIN monthly meetings and prayer
Rosebud Program – Maintain table and gather prayer requests; prayer team
S Brigid approved partner for Mother's Trust
Communications (Bulletin articles, website & newsletter, etc)

Occasional Volunteer Needs Quarterly, Monthly, or as needed
Support WWMIN team to host quarterly speakers
Coordinate St Brigid WWMIN Mentor group
Childcare team as needed for key parish activities
Coordinate quarterly drives to donate diapers, baby equipment, etc. to community resources

Thank You

Thank you for your time, attention, and support.

- **We need your support! Take the Survey - Vote, provide feedback, consider which volunteer opportunity is for you.**
- The St. Brigid Parish Response will be shared in our next Parish-wide meeting early December. Watch the Bulletin for dates.
- Join us in praying for mothers in need.
- If you haven't done so already, be sure to sign-up to stay informed and get updates on volunteer opportunities.



Survey ends 11/7/26

Walking with Moms in Need
Phases of Implementation



PHASE I

JAN-FEB 2026

- Introduce WWMIN & build core team
- Pray for pregnant moms; Prayers of the Faithful, Prayer Cards

PHASE II

FEB-JUN 2026

- Launch Parish Inventory Process
- Gather resources & and info from diocese

PHASE III

JUL-OCT 2026

- Share results w/Fr
- Parish wide meeting to inform & obtain feedback*
- Assess & plan for parish response

PHASE IV

NOV-FEB 2027

- Parish wide meeting to announce Parish Response*
- Work w/volunteers; begin implementation

PHASE V

Feb-MAR 2027

- Celebrate Parish Plans
- WWMIN Volunteers to implement the parish plans.*

*Parishioner support

Q&A and Discussion



A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

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Thank You



Walking with Moms in Need Team

Kelly Metoyer
Leslie Hazinski
Rosa Reyes-Prosen
Edena Holley
Brenda Hernandez
Marcelino Hernandez
Alyssa Cash
Heather Cantin
Marianna Zeidler