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April 26, 2022

Dear Brother,

Feeling helplessly alone at a time of personal crisis can be overwhelming. A woman who finds herself with an unplanned pregnancy can at times face many challenges. What should normally be a joyful, new beginning may instead bring immense fear, anxiety and confusion.

As Catholics, we naturally feel compelled by our faith in Jesus Christ to reach out to our sisters who may be facing these challenges. The good news is that help is often readily available from many compassionate and dedicated people. We must effectively communicate to both pregnant women in need and parishioners about these resources so that they are known about, supported and utilized.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and our Archdiocese have joined together in a nationwide effort called Walking with Moms in Need. For this initiative, the USCCB has provided educational, pastoral, prayer and action-oriented resources to help parishes accompany pregnant and parenting mothers facing difficulties. These resources are designed for ease of use at the parish level, and all the materials can be downloaded (in English and Spanish) by visiting [www.WalkingWithMoms.com/parish-resources](http://www.WalkingWithMoms.com/parish-resources).

Walking with Moms in Need is a response to Pope Francis' repeated challenge to go to the margins and bring hope and help to those in need. Your help is needed to ensure that mothers in need in our Archdiocese know that the Church is a place they can turn to for support and assistance. You are encouraged to review the Walking with Moms in Need materials and discern how they can best be used for your parish community. To join this unprecedented effort, please contact Dawn Fitzpatrick, Senior Coordinator Respect Life Ministries at [dfitzpatrick@archchicago.org](mailto:dfitzpatrick@archchicago.org) for more information.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago