



September 23, 2010

Dear Gabriel Project Volunteers:

On behalf of the Gabriel Project Steering Committee, I would like to thank you for the time and work you have already committed to this wonderful and life-affirming parish-based ministry to Moms in need. National Director Dr. Marcella Colbert was impressed with the sincerity you demonstrated by your attention and serious questioning. You showed one Irish Texan that there is a strong commitment to defending life in the Northwest. Again, thank you.

So, what's next? At the close of the training session on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Jim Thomas and Trish Warfel gave you a brief indication of two important next steps, namely, the remaining items for the steering committee to put in place, and your task of identifying a single contact person for each parish.

The steering committee is close to finalizing the remaining items needed to launch the Gabriel Project such as identifying vendors for the Sign of Life, arranging the toll-free phone line, and preparing a summary of supportive services, that is, those agencies and organizations that will help you help Mom. And to that end, we will be starting to 'customize' the manual to reflect the resources of our Archdiocese.

I will be commissioning the St. Stephen's Gabriel Project volunteers at Masses in late October or early November, and blessing the Sign of Life installed on the parish property. The toll-free line will be "turned on" with volunteers ready to say, "Thank you for calling Gabriel Project of the Archdiocese of Seattle. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. How may I help you?"

It's an exciting development for our Archdiocese and we are anxious to share that excitement with those of you from other parishes who have come forward, with your pastor's blessing, to meet Moms in need *where they are*, to be Christ to a stranger. The following is a summary of the next steps for implementing the Gabriel Project in your parish:

1. Prayerfully review the material in the manual, particularly those sections related to the role of the Parish Coordinator and the Gabriel Angel: How the Angel Protects Mom, Conversation, Active Listening, How the Gabriel Project Works, and How to Implement the Gabriel Project in the Parish. While your parish may contribute a Telephone Volunteer, it is not required of every parish at this time.
2. Discern in what way you are being called individually to serve and then discuss with your family the nature of the commitment you are prepared to make to assess their support.

3. Communicate with those in your parish who attended the September 11<sup>th</sup> training session. Hold a meeting to discuss the roles each of you wishes to adopt and form a plan to follow the steps for implementing the Gabriel Project in the Parish (p.26). This meeting may follow the format for Parish Meetings described on page 18.
4. Implement the key elements of the plan: identify the trained volunteers, approach the pastor for approval – if you haven't already, communicate with other groups in the parish, solicit support for the cost of the sign, and notify Silvia Adams (who is the Diocesan Coordinator until the Gabriel Project reaches a certain size), at [adamsfamily10@hotmail.com](mailto:adamsfamily10@hotmail.com).

The Committee will get back to you shortly with the updated information related to the Archdiocese of Seattle, the progress of our implementation of Gabriel Project here at St. Stephen's, and the 'live' start to our 1-888 phone number for all to use.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, general feedback, or resources you would like to see listed in the manual, please have your contact person e-mail [gabrielprojectseattle@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielprojectseattle@gmail.com) and someone will get back to you. Also, if you would like a representative of the committee to come by to speak to your group, please let us know that through the same email address.

Once again, thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Gabriel Project, and let us all continue to pray for each other and those we will soon be serving.

In Christ's Love,



Father Ed White