



May 12, 2010

Dear Brother Priests and Pastoral Coordinators,

I would like to invite you to consider a very successful outreach to women in crisis pregnancies. Gabriel Project began in Texas in the wake of Roe v. Wade when Msgr. John Perusina put a sign outside his rectory offering help to any woman in need, Catholic and Non Catholic alike, who was willing to carry her child to term. The Project grew from there to include many parishes and dioceses. Recently Archbishop Brunett gave us permission to start Gabriel here in the Archdiocese.

Gabriel Project requires the support of the local pastor. It is a commitment on the part of a parish because of its solidarity with the needs of women in crisis pregnancies. It is faith-based however and does not require a financial commitment beyond the initial signage advertising the intake phone number. St. Stephen the Martyr will cover the cost of a regional phone line that will refer women to your volunteers.

This is not a substitute for quality pregnancy aid centers. Gabriel depends on them and works in support of them. But parishes, by quantity and location, tend to be more visible than the few pregnancy centers that are available. When a woman approaches the parish, a volunteer 'angel' is assigned to the woman to help meet her needs, including using the resources that our pregnancy centers provide.

The 'angel', typically a woman who has had a child as well, goes through a thorough training (planned for September 11<sup>th</sup>) and ongoing formation so that she can minister to these women with great compassion and wisdom. Other volunteers will be needed to provide promotion, answer phones, and coordinate any supplies needed. Volunteers will grow in their appreciation for their faith and application of it.

Already, parishioners from over 20 parishes throughout the archdiocese have expressed interest in becoming volunteers. Would you as a priest/pastoral coordinator support this effort to relieve the burden on women in a crisis pregnancy by making your parish a refuge for them? If you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Jim Thomas at the Archdiocese or myself at St. Stephen the Martyr, 253-631-1940, ext. 109.



We are planning a dinner and priest informational session with Dr. Marcella Colbert, National Director of Gabriel Project, on Friday evening, September 10, at St. Anthony's in Renton. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this wonderful ministry to those who are most in need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Fr. Ed White

P.S. - For more information, please see [www.diogh.org/RespectLife/index.htm](http://www.diogh.org/RespectLife/index.htm) or [www.gabrielproject.com/faq.htm](http://www.gabrielproject.com/faq.htm).