

GABRIEL PROJECT

I am Gabriel, who stands before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news...for nothing is impossible with God.

Luke 1:19, 37

What is Gabriel Project?

Gabriel Project is a parish-based crisis pregnancy intervention, where trained volunteers (called 'angel' mentors) are paired with women approaching the parish for assistance.

How did it start?

Gabriel Project started in 1973 at St. Michael's Parish in Houston. In 1990 it spread to the Diocese of Austin and has since expanded to over half the dioceses in the United States.

When did it start in the Archdiocese of Seattle?

The first mentor training was held on September 11, 2010, at St. Stephen the Martyr Parish, Renton. St. Stephen's began offering this ministry on February 11, 2011, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. At that point, the toll-free number for Western Washington (1-888-926-ANGEL (2643)) was activated and trained Telephone Volunteers began to take calls. Our first Mom was paired with her Gabriel Angel that same weekend. Parishes throughout the archdiocese have been following the implementation procedures found in the Volunteer Handbook on the archdiocesan web site, appointing a Parish Gabriel Project Coordinator, organizing their parishes, ordering signs and scheduling additional training sessions.

How much does it cost?

Nothing. The minimal cost of signage (~\$100-\$400) is usually paid by parish organizations that are supportive. The cost of the regional phone line will be paid initially by St. Stephen with donations already earmarked for this. Mentors use existing resources (Catholic Community Services, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Crisis Pregnancy Centers, DSHS, etc.) to meet the needs of their moms in distress.

Does this conflict with Crisis Pregnancy Centers?

No. It should bring an increased awareness and support for local Pregnancy Centers and can compliment their efforts.

What do priests and pastoral coordinators need to do?

Simply allow recruitment in your parish. Volunteers will be given all the resources that they need to be practically self-sufficient. If you know of parishioners who might be interested, we can contact them.

Please contact Paul Robertson, Archdiocesan Gabriel Project Coordinator, at gabrielcoordinatorseattle@gmail.com with any questions.

For background material, see www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Gabriel.