

EVERY LIFE

cherished • chosen • sent



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Gabriel Project® Overview

Based on national portal and summaries from Fredi D'Alessio from the San Francisco *Gabriel Project*®
<https://thegabrielproject.wordpress.com/> and local pilot (Lisa Kent from St. Clement's Roman Catholic Church)

What is *Gabriel Project*®?

“Confidential and compassionate” parish-based program to support pregnant mothers and their unborn children

Program uses parish signs, pamphlets, car decals, (social media), and a toll free helpline to assist pregnant moms who are experiencing difficulties

Gabriel Project® is a program for you and me. There is a role for each of us to help assist pregnant moms and their unborn children.

How does it work?

A call for help is received.

The helpline volunteer contacts the parish lead at the nearest participating church to where the mom (caller) lives.

The parish lead contacts the mom and makes an initial assessment of her situation.

Parish volunteer(s) (Gabriel Project® “Angel(s)”) are assigned the responsibility for ongoing contact with mom throughout her pregnancy and somewhat beyond.

An initial meeting is arranged to further assess her needs.

MAY EVERY
EXPECTANT MOTHER
ENCOUNTER
LOVING SUPPORT
AS SHE AWAITS THE
BIRTH OF HER CHILD.

usccb.org/prayforlife

PRAY
FOR
LIFE



Who does it serve?

Any mom who is pregnant and in need of help regardless of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, or religious affiliation.

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What does the parish provide?

A reflection of Christ's love through spiritual, emotional and material support

Through prayer and support they assure the mom that she has their love and the love of Christ.

The parish provides loving support for a mom who suffers from abandonment by the father or her own family.

What types of supports are provided?

Pregnancy information and assistance with pre-natal care

Maternity and baby clothes, cribs, strollers, and various baby items

Referrals for housing, medical care and counseling

Parenting support or adoption information

There is no charge for services.

Where did it begin?

In 1973 as a result of the Roe vs. Wade decision, Rev. Msgr. John Perusina from St. Michael Parish in Houston put a sign outside his parish conveying his parishes commitment to provide immediate and practical help to mothers with unplanned pregnancies who come to them for aid.

In 1990 *Gabriel Project*® began to flourish in Texas and then started to move to other parts of the country.

Gabriel Project® now operates in over 50 Dioceses across the U.S.
(<http://www.gabrielproject.us/contact.html>)

How do networks operate?

An arm of the Diocesan Respect Life Office

A 501c3 organization

A multi-Diocese regional organization

Gabriel Project® Parish Sign (San Francisco)

Pregnant?

Worried?

Need Help?

800-910-0191

The members of our church communities see in the conception of each child a fresh expression of God's unfailing love. We offer immediate and practical help to any pregnant mother experiencing difficulties.

USCCB endorses *Gabriel Project*®

In 2001, the USCCB document, *A People of Life and a People for Life: An invitation*, lists the Gabriel Project® among a number of suggested programs: “Begin a parish-based ministry to pregnant women and their children. *The Gabriel Project*®, developed in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, is excellent and is spreading across the nation. Volunteers in the parish are trained to help a woman through her pregnancy - with practical assistance, spiritual and emotional guidance, and help in accessing needed services.”

USCCB reiterates the commitment in 2002

The USCCB reiterated in November 2002

“We renew our offer of assistance to anyone considering abortion: If you are overwhelmed by the decisions you face, if you can not afford medical care, if you are homeless or you feel helpless, whatever your needs, we will help you. The Church and her ministries, inspired by word and example of Jesus Christ, will help you with compassion and without condemnation.”

Gabriel Project® in New York

Archdiocese of New York (Sisters of Life)

Diocese of Ogdensburg (10 parishes)

Diocese of Rockville Center (1 parish) through Great Lakes

Diocese of Albany (St. Clement's)

St. Clement's Pilot

Letter to Request Permission from Bishop Scharfenberger in November 2017

Bishop Scharfenberger approves the pilot in January 2018

Charism - The Angel Gabriel's "Fear Not" reassured Mary at the Annunciation. Like the Angel Gabriel, our charism is to carry this same message to mothers and fathers who may feel confused, frightened or alone:

God is faithful, we need only trust, in him is life, hope and joy.

St. Clement's Pilot (cont.)

St. Clement's begins through offering assistance to 5 moms through their outreach program and still in contact with 1 mom remotely as of March 2019

When inquiries were received, the parish (lead) handled all calls. The (lead) listened, reassured, answered questions and offered appropriate resources. The (lead) matched the mom with an Angel volunteer team within 24 hours to have a visit.

St. Clement's Pilot (cont.)

Based on Jesus' instruction to visit "two by two" Angel volunteer teams were assigned and moms were visited in their home or another preferred location within 48 hours of the initial assessment call.

Volunteers encourage, listen and reassure with the goals of the meeting being:

Know the love of Jesus through the loving presence of volunteers

Feel supported, encouraged and not alone

Feel comfortable with Angel team volunteers

Lessons Learned from Pilot at St. Clement's

Pastor support (spiritual director) critical to program

Listening skills were the most needed in training based on input from Gabriel Project® Angels

What does it take to be an Angel Volunteer?

Catholic in good standing

Member of the parish where they volunteer

Strong Prayer life

Familiar with and accepting of the Church teaching on marriage, family and contraception

Mature women who are mothers themselves

Comfortable with their own personal healing from past wounds

What necessities are there to implement?

Reapproval letter to Bishop for new parishes

One uniform phone number for all to call (24/7 team needed to handle calls)

Signage

Pastor support

Spiritual director

Training for parish lead and volunteers

Committee with parish reps & PerpetuaLife Care

Areas where PerpetuaLife Care may be helpful

Resources (centralized so as to not duplicate and keep uniform)

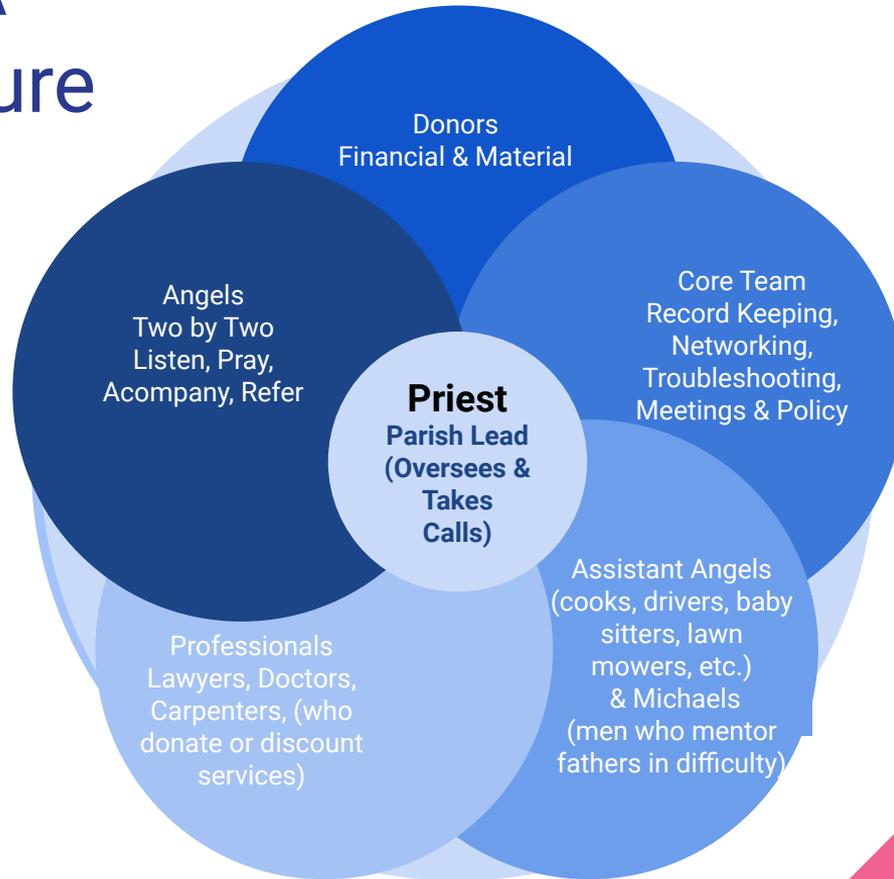
Pay for centralized (one) phone number for all calls

Centralized web page

Signage

Training materials and room for training (to keep uniform) offer 3 times per year

What Could A Parish Structure Look Like?



RESPECT LIFE

BENOT
Afráid

Art: "The Ascension" by Azzolino. Courtesy of Restored Traditions. Used with permission.

Interested in becoming a *Gabriel Project*® Parish?

Please let us know via email to perpetualifecare@gmail.com

J. Paul Heckman, President
PerpetuaLife Care, Inc.