

## Ministry for Moms In Need

Ministry for Expectant & New Parents In-Need at St. Bernard of Clairvaux

### **Mission Statement / Purpose**

Recognizing that the anticipation of a new baby through pregnancy or adoption is a crucial transition time in any family, we at St. Bernard of Clairvaux seek to minister to expectant families through:

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Life-on-Life relationships
- 3) Connection to other church ministries & resources

As in all church ministries, the ultimate goal of Ministry for Moms In Need is to draw women and their families into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. If you are a new mother in need, please contact us at 480-661-9843.

### **Background:**

After several meetings and in consultation with key parish leaders, the Walking with Moms Task Force, discerned that one of the most practical ways to respond to mothers in need at St. Bernard of Clairvaux is by providing a ministry that creates a sense of family by formally recognizing babies on the way and in the fellowship. We would like to provide a non-threatening way for relationship building. No long-term commitment or personal service is required in signing up to be a mentor. Participants may be ministered to by the team and develop a personal path forward in their own spiritual journey. The ministry's ultimate goal is to accompany moms in need – offer spiritual resources, offer a Meal Train for the expectant mother, offer babysitting (if family is comfortable), direct them to other Diocesan approved counseling services, and most importantly, help them develop a deeper relationship with Christ.

### **Ministry Mechanics**

**(1) Care Receiver Sign-Up:** Participants would be encouraged to sign up for our ministry through announcements in the weekly church newsletter/bulletin and online through the church website and Facebook page. Other church ministries would be educated so to be on the lookout for potential participants (Men's and Women's Renewal, Women's Spirituality, SVDP, etc). Ideally participants would receive prayer and ministry for nearly one year: pregnancy through the first 6 months of baby's life.

**(2) Mentor Recruitment:** Mentors will be selected and recruited by the volunteer lead of this ministry. Team members could be required to complete ministry team application. Mentors are ideally members of the parish, active in other church ministries, and have demonstrated the ability and desire to aid in the spiritual growth of other women.

**Lead Team Member:**

- Recruit and train mentors
- Receive care recipient information and maintain database
- Assign care recipients to mentors
- Assist mentors in meeting unique needs
- Create agenda & lead monthly team meetings/trainings
- Assist mentor team w/ministry events
- Network across church staff and with other ministries in order to help team facilitate connections as needs arise of care recipients (e.g. pastoral care needs, special needs, Infant Baptism, etc)

**Mentor Job Description:**

- Attend monthly or quarterly meetings
- Must be Safe Environment Trained Certified
- Serve as mentor to expectant & new mother
- Establish relationship, introduce family into Infant Baptism and / or Religious Education
- Shepherd family into other church environments (Fellowship groups, Bible study).
- Pray regularly for expecting family, mail a prayer card.
- Follow up regularly, bringing prayer needs to church
- Own the church relationship w/ family, facilitating timely communication of:
  - Date of child's birth
  - Hospital the mother/child is in
  - Proper spelling of child's name
  - Special needs or other pastoral care type issues

- Personally Deliver/Return : Expectant parent gifts
- Assist the family on Infant Baptism

**Prayer** – The team would understand the importance of their participation in individual and communal prayers for their individually assigned families and for the group as a whole.

**Extra-Financial Aid** – Serving as a mentor has the potential to drain a family of financial and time resources when it comes to baby shower and other family invitations. This is one of the biggest down-sides to recruiting people to serve on ministry. Expectations may need to be set in writing that it is optional for mentors to attend or provide personal gifts at baby showers for care recipients but not a requirement. We may need to seek the assistance of Knights of Columbus.

**Special Needs** – Mentors would be trained to provide ministry or make connections between participants and other church members/ministries who could meet specific needs. Care recipients would receive special support when they experience crisis such as: short-notice adoption, unwed or single mothers, miscarriage, still-birth, high-risk pregnancy or bed-rest, pre-birth testing that shows potential problems, post-partum depression.