

LAUNCHING GABRIEL

Check List - 10 Easy Steps

- ___ 1. Pray, pray, pray. Find prayer warriors and ask them to pray for the success of The Gabriel Project at your parish. Trust God and don't be afraid. The Great Lakes Gabriel Project (GLGP) has been dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the unborn. God is in charge and Our Lady of Guadalupe helps us.
- ___ 2. Read this packet of information.
- ___ 3. Call Great Lakes Gabriel Project toll-free at 1-877-719-7012 and talk with Eileen Hartman, Executive Director.
- ___ 4. Contact your pastor and gain his support.
- ___ 5. Share this material and the pink pamphlet provided by GLGP with individuals and/or groups in your parish to form a cadre of supporters for the project.
- ___ 6. Set a weekend to "launch" the project at your parish.
- ___ 7. Use the bulletin announcements on p. 13 beginning two weeks before the launch. A GLGP representative will speak at each Mass while parishioners look at the sign-up form on p.14. The GLGP representative will answer questions after each Mass.
- ___ 8. Collect the sign-up forms and send copies to GLGP where they will be entered into the GLGP database and returned to you in the form of a spreadsheet..
- ___ 9. Attend the next available orientation/training session in your area. A leadership team for your parish will be formed at this session.
- ___ 10. Form a committee to work with the local Knights of Columbus to erect a GLGP "Sign of Life" on your church property. See back cover for example of sign and see p.19 for directions for ordering your Sign of Life.

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The most important person

on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral, a dwelling for an immortal soul, the perfection of her baby's body

The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in this, God's creative miracle: to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than is any other human creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation. What on God's earth is more glorious than this . . .

to be a mother?

—Josef Cardinal Mindszenty

*Question and Answer Resource for Churches
Discerning Participation in*

Great Lakes Gabriel Project

*An Apostolate to Mothers
and their Unborn Children*

*Serving Women and Families in
Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan*

June 15, 2006

Supersedes revision dated May 11, 2006

1) What is the Gabriel Project?

The Gabriel Project is a network of Churches standing together in their commitment to offer assistance to women and families facing crisis pregnancies. Participating congregations “advertise” this commitment by placing a Sign of Life on their church property. The Sign of Life, with its toll-free hotline number, assures any mother that this congregation cares for her and is prepared to offer immediate and practical help with her pregnancy. The Gabriel Project’s Sign of Life will be a sign not only for a Mom in need, but for the church community and for the community at large.

Car magnets advertising the project are available and can be used as a fund-raiser for the project. These magnets generate many calls for assistance, save lives and evangelize the project.

2) What does the sign on the church property say?

The Gabriel Project’s Sign of Life says :

Pregnant? Confused? Need Help? Call: 1-877-734-2444.

The members of this church community see in the creation of each baby a fresh expression of God’s unfailing love. For the love of God and each and every one of His children, we offer immediate and practical help to any woman faced with a difficult pregnancy.

Two logos are used in the Great Lakes states: a) a line drawing of an angel standing behind a Mother and her child and b) the image of Our Lady of the Streets. The angel logo is used on car magnets. The logo with the image of Our Lady is used for the Sign of Life in the Great Lakes states.

3) Why should our church put a sign up?

The sign has four main purposes:

- The sign is an advertisement that help is really available.
- The sign is a statement to the community that this church really does care about the struggles of women and families facing difficult pregnancies.
- The sign is a reminder to the church community that they have made a commitment to help.
- The sign is an invitation to other churches to join the Gabriel Project.

4) If we put up a sign in front of our church offering help, won't people be lined up looking for handouts?

In other areas of the country where The Gabriel Project is successfully operating, pastors have found that extremely few people seeking help have actually knocked on the church/office door. Most people seeking help from the Gabriel Project call the toll-free hotline.

5) Who answers the calls to the toll-free hotline?

Volunteers in Columbus, Indiana answer the English hotline (877-734-2444) and the Spanish hotline (800-720-4570). The Indiana project began in Columbus on May 3, 1999. .

6) What happens when a woman or family in need calls the hotline?

The phone is answered "Project Gabriel. This is _____." The hotline volunteer assesses the caller's situation and the caller's home location determines which Gabriel Project Coordinator will be contacted for help. Currently, the project in Indiana has area coordinators in the Indianapolis, Lafayette and Gary Dioceses. If the call is from someone outside of those areas, the Executive Director will contact a pastor or Pro-Life Chairman at the Catholic Church or organization nearest the caller.

If the caller is abortion-minded, she (or he) will be listened to and helped to discern the fear that is driving her to the conclusion that abortion is her only option. She will be lovingly educated about abortion and abortion alternatives, including The Gabriel Project. With her permission the volunteer will pray with her. She might be referred to the nearest pregnancy resource center for a pregnancy test or ultra-sound. If assigned to a Gabriel church, a Gabriel Angel might be asked to take her to her doctor's appointment or to WIC (Women, Infants and Children) – not always because she needs a ride, but because she needs a friend to encourage her and to be with her during this difficult time in her life.

Some women will express appreciation for the help they receive and others may be suffering from the trauma of their situation and not even be aware of the sacrifices being made for them. Still others may take advantage of the situation and ask for things that are not necessary or that through good planning might be handled better. Angles cannot take these situations personally. If you do, you might want to partner with someone who can counsel you to better handle the needs of the Mother you are assigned to help.

Sometimes the initial telephone connection is continued and sometimes the woman will be assigned to a church immediately. If she has had previous abortions, she might also be invited to learn more about Project Rachel, a post-abortive ministry for healing.

7) What about evangelization?

Participating churches are also expected to do what they do best; namely, to give witness to Christ's love for each woman, each unborn child, and each family. Very often, this may be the first time that this woman or family has experienced such unconditional love. When a church community emotionally, materially and spiritually "adopts" a mother or family, very often there will naturally be an attraction to the Church community, which offers such love.

The Church community will welcome the Mom if she wants to attend their church. However, attending church is not a condition of our help and the Mom will be told this fact at the first phone call or at the first meeting with her. If she prefers to attend a different church, transportation will be offered. If she prefers not to attend church, that is also acceptable. In any case, an army of angels will be praying for her, her baby and her situation.

8) How often will referrals be made to our church?

The amount of referrals that a church receives depends in part on the number of participating churches in a given local area. Nationally, however, the load per church community has averaged 2 to 4 clients a year. All referrals to a church are made through the Gabriel Project Volunteer Coordinator(s) at that church.

9) Will we actually meet with a woman in need?

Through the Angel volunteers the church community, in word and deed, lives the message of the Angel Gabriel: "The Lord is with you... Do not be afraid... Nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:26-37) The goals of the first meeting are:

- To allow the Mother to experience the grace of God during this meeting through prayer and the loving kindness of the people of the church.
- To listen compassionately to the concerns and needs of the Mother and/or family in need.
- To help the Mother plan for her pregnancy-related needs.
- To encourage the Mother to seek God's pathway for her life.

10) What is the role of the Pastor?

The Pastor has no assigned duties in The Gabriel Project. However, at their discretion, Pastors tend to participate in various ways, such as:

- To welcome the project into their parish.
- To pray for the Mothers, babies, families and Angels of the project.
- To encourage participation in the work of the project.
- To recognize and treat the Gabriel Project as any other Parish Ministry.

11) What is the role of the Gabriel Project Team?

The Team consists of a Coordinator(s) and a group of “Angels” whose role it is:

- To implement the plan decided upon by the coordinator and the Gabriel Project team including daily prayer for the Mom and family.
- To keep the coordinator informed about the condition and the well being of the mother and baby with weekly reports.

Each Mother should have her own angel(s) so that she receives individual care and attention. At the discretion of the pastor, aided by the coordinator (s) who administer the volunteer screening, anyone can be an Angel: male, female, young or old. The Angel is a friend, whose job it is to walk alongside the Mother to accompany her, pray for and with her, and encourage her on her journey. The role of the Angel should be perceived as a great opportunity to evangelize through action and to display a missionary response to our neighbors in need. There will be times when we have to stretch and leave our comfort zone in order to serve the families who need us.

12) How does the church community fit into this?

The role of the church community is:

- To support the Mother, family and baby in love and prayer.
- To pray for and assist the Angel and the Gabriel Project Team in their specific ministry to the Mother and baby.

After identifying her needs, the church community simply responds in love by providing emotional, spiritual and some material support. For the many women who are abandoned by their family at the time of a difficult pregnancy, the church community lovingly fills the void left by the missing family. Each congregation develops its own, unique response to the needs of a Mother or family under its care.

Let's look at a simple example where a pregnant Mom requesting a baby crib is referred to a church. The Gabriel Project Coordinator might find a crib using local resources. However, if local resources are not able to fill the request at that time, the coordinator will make the mother's need known through a bulletin or pulpit announcement. Everyone together will be invited to respond to her needs in a whole-church response. The church will respond as the Body of Christ.

13) How are the needs of a Mother or family communicated to the church community?

Most coordinators have used church bulletins and at times a vocal announcement is made at the weekend masses. The pastor will help decide the preferred method. For example, the bulletin might announce:

- Sample Bulletin Announcement -
The Gabriel Project Needs...

This past week one of our Angel teams met and prayed with a pregnant Mom in need of a crib, maternity clothes and someone to baby-sit for her three-year-old for two days a week. The pregnancy assistance center is handling the need for maternity clothes. If you have a crib or if you can baby-sit, please get in touch with _____. Please also keep this Mom (Stacy), her unborn baby and her three children in your prayers.”

In rare cases the Mom may want to keep her identity confidential. It is critically important that any announcements and prayer requests respect this confidentiality. An assigned name can be used to make the situation more concrete and real to the church community. Most Moms don't mind if their first name is used.

Not every client that is referred to the church will have needs that require making announcements to the whole church. Frequently, the Gabriel Volunteer Team will be able to minister to specific needs from their own collective skills and local resources. In such cases, it is still good to bring a pregnant Mom's prayer requests to the congregation as a whole so that they can see that the Gabriel project really is working at their church. This technique also serves to elicit help from new volunteers so as to keep team membership at an effective level.

14) Doesn't making this kind of public announcement look like we're condoning some inappropriate behavior?

Some of the clients seeking help from The Gabriel Project will be married women

and others will be pregnant and unmarried. We have an obligation to unconditionally love each pregnant Mom seeking our help no matter what situation or behavior led to her pregnancy. As Jesus loves us so we must strive to love the Mom and see Jesus in her.

We can recall the response of Jesus to the woman caught in adultery. Jesus saved her life physically and spiritually. He forgave her and counseled her to avoid this sin in the future. He completely changed her life. The Gabriel Project should also be an opportunity to help people change their lives and behavior for the better. When the behavior is not changed, we have an opportunity to love unconditionally as long as we are not enabling illegal or unhealthy behavior.

15) What kinds of assistance can our church be expected to provide?

Churches in the Gabriel Project stand ready to provide a Mother with the kinds of assistance that she needs in caring for herself and her unborn baby. Married or unmarried, she also may bring additional family with her apart from the unborn. The help needed may include:

- Friendship and emotional support
- Pastoral care and counseling
- Medical aid and prenatal care resources
- Limited financial and material assistance
- Housing and adoption resources
- Educational and employment resources

Not every Mom will need all of the above. Most Moms will need friendship, emotional and spiritual support. Each church will realize what kinds of commitments it can make in supporting Moms and their babies. **Partnering with another church might be practical and necessary.**

Volunteers should not feel pressured that they must provide every single suggested ministry found within The Gabriel Project concept. For example, not every church group may be able to offer volunteer health care professionals. It is enough that each church simply and honestly gives support as best it can from the human and material resources that are available. A powerful aspect of the Gabriel Project is that, on occasion, churches can be linked together when a specific client's needs cannot all be met by one church. Such situations have already been successfully coordinated.

More than anything else, Gabriel Project churches embrace each pregnant woman who comes to them as their daughter, their sister, and their friend. They also realize that they may not be able to answer all needs. In these cases, prayer for guidance from the Holy Spirit and trust in the Providence of God is the answer. Living our faith is a worthy model for the Mom and her family.

16) This kind of help sounds like it can get very expensive. How can our church afford it?

Limited financial support might be offered by a church, but the emphasis of this project is on prayer and emotional support.

17) Will our church be expected to provide housing for pregnant Moms?

Many churches will not be able to offer housing for pregnant Moms, but some will be able to. Since 1999 several generous individuals and families have offered a “shepherding home” to Moms in need. A shepherding home family offers to take in a pregnant Mom as a “member” of their family. The shepherding family and the Mom usually meet at a neutral place to discuss house rules and decide if they will be a good match. A verbal or written “contract” specifying the expectations and responsibilities of the family and their new “member” is suggested. While offering a shepherding home can be a great witness of Christian love, it can also be a great demand on a family making such a commitment. The Great Lakes Gabriel Project has witnessed wonderful situations in shepherding families and the Moms helped in these situations will be forever bonded to the shepherding family.

18) How much help is “too much” help for a pregnant Mom?

The goal of the Gabriel Project is to help provide for a Mom’s pregnancy-related needs - material, emotional and spiritual, using local resources whenever possible. She should be nurtured toward **independence from and not dependence on** The Gabriel Project Church. Once in a while, there may be a client who is very skilled at manipulating the system in order to take advantage of those trying to offer help. Gabriel Project Teams will pray for wisdom and discernment and ask for guidance from the area coordinator. The overall goal is to help her (with the help of God) to help herself and her baby.

19) What about liability?

In the litigious age in which we live, some people may be concerned about their liability when helping another individual. The Gabriel Project involves the same

liability as any other direct assistance outreach. If a church can be sued for feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, or welcoming the stranger, it can certainly be sued also for offering assistance to a pregnant Mom.

For instance, a Mom might trip on the carpet of the church office and break her ankle. The general liability insurance policy for the church should provide coverage. When in doubt, contact your insurance provider. If a family within the church community offers their home as a “shepherding home,” they too should contact their insurance provider to make sure that their homeowner’s policy provides adequate coverage. Anyone giving a Mom or her family a ride must be licensed and have the necessary insurance coverage. The challenge before us in an outreach ministry such as the Gabriel Project is to conquer the fears of the world in which we live with the gift of faith, which Christ promises to those who are willing to risk living true Gospel love of neighbor.

20) How much training is involved for our Gabriel Project Team?

The basic training for the Gabriel Project Team can be handled in a single, three-hour session on a weekend or in an evening. A follow-up session will be held 6 months later. Ongoing communication and additional training are also recommended two or three times per year.

21) What will it cost our church to join the Gabriel Project?

There is little up-front cost for a church to join the Gabriel Project. The cost for the two-sided “**Sign of Life**” which is placed in front of participating churches ranges from **\$350 to \$500** depending upon the size of the sign chosen by the church. The Knights of Columbus should be contacted for financial support in purchasing a sign.

Churches are also encouraged to contribute \$25/month or \$300/year to help cover telephones, toll-free lines, and administrative costs. A church will not be excluded if it cannot contribute monetarily. Fund-raisers are encouraged. At this time project personnel is all voluntary. Eventually, a small staff will be necessary to continue this project and to manage it’s growth.

22) How did The Gabriel Project come about?

The original Gabriel Project began in Texas in the early 1990’s. Since then, thousands of volunteers have been trained and activated to serve God and neighbor as Good Samaritans.

23) Which church organizations in the Great Lakes states are part of the Gabriel Project and who are the Parish Coordinators?

A. Indianapolis, IN Archdiocese; Anita Moody - Regional Coordinator

- 1) Holy Name, Beech Grove; Therese Chamblee
- 2) St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington; Suzanne McConnell
- 3) St. John the Apostle, Bloomington
- 4) St. Paul, Bloomington;
- 5) St. Bartholomew, Columbus; Eileen Hartman
- 6) St. Michael, Greenfield; Shannon Fitzgerald and Siobhan Schafer
- 7) Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood; Maggie Zapfe and Jennifer Brown
- 8) Christ the King, Indianapolis; Liz Sowinski
- 9) St. Ann, Indianapolis; Gloria Lieb
- 10) St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis; Patty Yeadon
- 11) St. Joseph, Indianapolis; Gloria Lieb
- 12) St. Luke, Indianapolis
- 13) St. Malachy, Brownsburg; Debbie Timko
- 14) St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis; Frank Danbeck
- 15) St. Monica, Indianapolis; Matt Nowlin and Elaine Rigney
- 16) St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis; Teresa Graff and Kim Snemis
- 17) St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis; Carla Carter
- 18) St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis; Peggy Alderman
- 19) St. Thomas More, Mooresville; Terry Nichodimas
- 20) St. Ambrose, Seymour; Carol Welker
- 21) St. Joseph University Parish, Terre Haute; Stephanie Cline
- 22) Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute; Stephanie Cline

B. Gary, IN Diocese; Donna and Joe Nicksic - Regional Coordinators

- 23) St. Patrick, Chesterton; Ann and Ken Ross
- 24) St. Mary, Griffith; Andrea Favala
- 25) St. Bridget, Hobart; Diane MacDonald
- 26) St. Edward, Lowell; Rosanne Kouris
- 27) Our lady of Consolation, Merrillville
- 28) St. Stephan, Martyr, Merrillville

C. Lafayette, IN Diocese

- 29) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carmel; Marian Copley
- 30) St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Carmel; Jane Blanchard
- 31) St. Mary, Frankfort; Margaret Jackson
- 32) St. Joseph, Lebanon; Judy Mrozinski

D. Joliet, IL Diocese; Fran Fortier and Peter Breen - Regional Coordinators

- 33) St. Dominic Bolingbrook
- 34) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Darien
- 35) Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst
- 36) Christ the King, Lombard
- 37) Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lombard
- 38) St. Pius X, Lombard
- 39) St. Michael, Wheaton

E. Dearborn, MI Diocese

- 40) St. Simon, Ludington; Kris Struve

F. Detroit, MI Archdiocese

- 41) St. Patrick, White Lake, Ann Rogers

24) What should our church do to join the Gabriel Project?

If your church is interested in becoming a part of the Gabriel Project, simply call the Executive Director, Eileen Hartman toll-free at (877) 719-7012.

25) What if we still have questions?

If you have any questions about the Gabriel Project, please don't hesitate to call the Executive Director, Eileen Hartman toll-free at (877) 719-7012 or email: projectgabriel@comcast.net.

Great Lakes Gabriel Project

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREAT LAKES GABRIEL PROJECT is coming!

Many mothers faced with crisis pregnancies feel abandoned by their families, the fathers of their babies and their communities. More and more, they represent all races, all cultures, all economic classes, and a wide range of ages. Some are homeless. Most feel alone and afraid. For too many, abortion seems the only answer.

Churches and pro-life service groups have sought ways to expand their embrace of women in difficult pregnancies. Now comes a way they can do so together—a way to combine the special power of prayer with a commitment to service—Great Lakes Gabriel Project! Please see next week’s bulletin for further details and save __(day, date and time)___ for orientation/training.

.....

GREAT LAKES GABRIEL PROJECT will be here next week!

Great Lakes Gabriel Project consists of a network of churches standing together in their commitment to offer assistance to women and families facing difficult pregnancies. A Mom who needs help, calls a toll-free phone number or is referred by a local agency and receives compassion and assurance that a local church community cares for her and is prepared to offer her immediate and practical help.

More than anything else, Great Lakes Gabriel Project churches embrace each pregnant woman who comes to them as their daughter, their sister, and their friend. Specifically, the role of our church in Great Lakes Gabriel Project is to meet with any mother referred to us for help, to pray with her and for her and to assure her that Christ and our congregation loves her. Our church community responds in love by providing emotional, spiritual and material support to help the Mom meet her needs. For the many women abandoned by family at the time of a difficult pregnancy, the church community lovingly fills the void left by a missing family.

Next weekend we will have a Gabriel Project “Sign-up-Weekend.” We will find out what our church community has to offer a pregnant Mom and her unborn baby. Remember to save __(day, date and time)___ for orientation/training.

.....

GREAT LAKES GABRIEL PROJECT is here!

This weekend is the launch of the Great lakes Gabriel Project. The first “Angel” volunteer orientation/training will take place __(day, date and time)___. If you cannot attend this training session, but want to be an Angel or have questions, please call _____ at _____.

Great Lakes Gabriel Project

GIFTS OF LIFE

Name _____ Day Ph # _____ Evening Ph # _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Email _____ Parish _____

PRAYER SUPPORT (for Gabriel Angels, mothers and babies)

- _____ Make a commitment to daily private prayer for Project Gabriel.
- _____ Participate in a prayer chain for Gabriel moms, families and angels.
- _____ **Coordinate prayer chain and/or create opportunities to pray for The Gabriel Project.**

PERSONAL SUPPORT

- _____ Become a Gabriel Angel.
- _____ Become an Assistant Gabriel Angel. (Partner with an Angel.)
- _____ Become a Spanish-speaking Angel. (Minimal verbal skills.)
- _____ Provide a temporary “shepherding home” for an expectant mother.
- _____ Offer to cook, shop, baby-sit or do household chores for an expectant or new mother.
- _____ Pair up with another Auxiliary member and take an expectant mother to lunch or dinner.
- _____ Provide transportation to church, shopping, doctor’s visits, errands, etc.
- _____ Volunteer 2-4 hours per week or month to organize and disburse material donations.
- _____ **Coordinate e-mail and/or telephone communications with volunteers and others.**
- _____ Participate in pro-life events (i.e. manning information tables).
- _____ Volunteer 2-4 hours per week/month for Birthline or area Pregnancy Resource Center.
- _____ Inform community agencies and establish two-way communication with the Gabriel Project.
- _____ Help research and/or write grants for the project.
- _____ Pray at an Abortion Center.
- _____ **Write/Coordinate announcements for the parish bulletin, local newsletter or statewide website.**

MATERIAL SUPPORT

- _____ Sew maternity clothing or layette items, such as blankets, bibs, etc.
- _____ Knit or crochet receiving blankets, booties, quilts, etc.
- _____ Donate diapers or formula.
- _____ **Help with/Coordinate collection & preparation of personal care items to be used as gifts for Moms.**
- _____ Provide pick-up truck for transportation of donations and for helping Moms move.
- _____ **Help with/Coordinate collection and organization of material resources at the church or nearby point.**

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- _____ Make a personal monthly tax-deductible donation to The Gabriel Project.
- _____ Make a personal yearly or occasional donation to Project Gabriel.
- _____ **Help with/Coordinate fundraising activities, such as a parish Baby Shower or Baby Banks.**

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT / EVANGELIZATION

- _____ Volunteer to speak at parish group meetings about The Gabriel Project ministry.
- _____ Approach area pastors/churches (Catholic and Non-Catholic) about starting a Gabriel Project.

OTHER TALENT(S)



Priests For Life

Assisting God's People to Proclaim, Celebrate, and Serve the Gospel of Life.

June 22, 2005

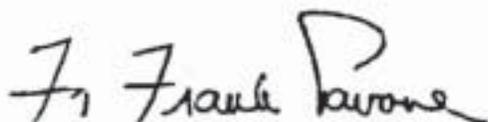
Dear Indiana Knights of Columbus,

Women do not obtain abortions because of "freedom of choice." They obtain them precisely because they feel they have *no* freedom and *no* choice. The Catholic Church has the ability to change that through one of the most effective pro-life programs available today, **The GABRIEL PROJECT**.

This effort engages the local parish Church to be a place where women who are pregnant and in need can turn for encouragement and physical and spiritual assistance. In short, they find the strength they need to do what they know is right.

No solution goes more swiftly and effectively to the heart of the abortion problem. Nor does any project or program more effectively express what the Church is called to be: a community of believers who, as a result of their belief, become more sensitive and responsive to the needs of those around them.

Throughout the United States, there are approximately 3500 pregnancy assistance centers, which is far more than the number of abortion facilities. There are also some 19,000 Catholic parishes. Working together through **The GABRIEL PROJECT**, we can make every one of those parishes an effective haven of hope and life for those who otherwise might turn to abortion.



Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director

PASTORS AND ASSOCIATES COMMENT ON THE GABRIEL PROJECT

“The Gabriel Project has been a blessing for Little Flower. It has brought a breath of fresh air to the Pro-Life efforts in our parish. At a time when many people only hear about the radical and extreme side of so-called Pro-Lifers, this ministry presents a fresh and much needed outlook. There are those who enjoy the one-on-one peer ministry as Gabriel Angels and those who simply want to donate needed items to those women suffering a crisis pregnancy situation. This is an important face of the Pro-Life movement that ALL Catholic parishes need to present to their local communities.”

Rev. Vincent Lampert, Pastor

St. Therese (Little Flower) Catholic Church, Indianapolis, East Deanery

“The Gabriel Project has been up and running at St. Bartholomew for over two years now, and it continues to attract angels of all kinds. From its first days in operation, “Gabriel” has been a blessing to the women who have had limited options in meeting the challenges of pregnancy. Some of our first clients had little or no working knowledge of English, and that fact led to the simultaneous strengthening of both our outreach to mothers with crisis pregnancies and to recent Hispanic arrivals in our community. The parish has grown stronger and more generous in the course of the past two years.

As a pastor I welcome the development of ministries that engage a wide variety of parishioners in practical, hands-on outreach that gives expression to our faith in the power of Christ now at work in the faithful. Demands on my time have really been inconsequential. I have made mention of needs only occasionally and I have on a couple occasions asked God’s blessings on those angels most recently trained and commissioned at Mass. I recommend the Gabriel Project as a truly pro-life outreach in any faith community.”

Rev. Clement T. Davis, Pastor

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, Columbus, Seymour Deanery

PASTOR AND ASSOCIATE COMMENTS CONTINUED

“The Gabriel Project has been a wonderful extension of our Pro-Life ministry and responsibility. The love and compassion of the angels toward the ladies has been very moving. This project literally extends the hands and heart of Jesus to those in need. We are very proud of this project and all they have done.”

Rev. Glenn L. O’Connor, Pastor

St. Joseph and St. Anne Catholic Churches, Indianapolis, West Deanery

“It’s one thing to be pro-life. It’s another thing to provide material and spiritual support at the ground roots level where women and families need it most.

I have seen The Gabriel Project bring confidence and direction to our pro-life ministries at St. Monica’s Parish. It has allowed us to provide a total response to women and families experiencing a difficult pregnancy.”

Rev. Shaun Whittington, Associate Pastor

St. Monica Catholic Church, Indianapolis, West Deanery

A Matter of the Heart

A Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on the Thirtieth Anniversary of Roe v. Wade *November 12, 2002*

“*Roe v. Wade* cannot stand as the law of this great nation, a nation founded on the self-evident truth that all people are created with an inalienable right to life. We are committed, no matter how long it may take, no matter the sacrifices required, to bringing about a reversal of this tragic Supreme Court decision. We will speak out on behalf of the sanctity of each and every human life wherever it is threatened, from conception to natural death, and we urge all people of good will to do likewise. For, as Pope John Paul II reminds us, “it is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop” (*The Gospel of Life*, no. 101). *Roe v. Wade* must be reversed.”

A Gabriel Mom Says “Thank you.”

“I was referred to the Gabriel Project by a lady whom I had worked with for only a brief period of time. Already raising two children alone, I’d discovered that once again I was expecting. Another consequence of a bad decision. I knew that the child in itself was not a mistake, but I honestly didn’t believe that I could endure another pregnancy, another fatherless child. How could I, a mother who’d made so many wrong decisions in her lifetime give this child anything of value. How could I teach him or her to be something that I didn’t even believe that I could be. How could I as a woman teach a man to be a man. Or how could I give a little girl self-confidence that should come from the protection and love a father? And how could I possibly provide for another child when I was 2 months behind in rent and could barely keep my gas and lights on?

And even in my own selfishness I didn’t want to be looked down upon for already having two children and being pregnant again....without a husband. After considering all these things, I’d decided that I would get an abortion and that everything would go back to normal. Or at least I could continue to work on pulling myself out of this financial hole that I’d dug seeing as how another baby would seemingly make things even tougher than they already were.

Well even after making an appointment to have the abortion, I decided to call the Gabriel Project. It was then that I talked to (a Gabriel Volunteer) and she helped me to realize that my child was a gift and not a curse. And not only did she give words of encouragement, but I was amazed at how she and the Project Gabriel “angels” were willing to go the extra mile for me just for choosing life. At a time when I’d allowed my emotions to throw me totally off track, through the prayers and support of Project Gabriel, I was able to look at life from a different perspective and once again I have hope for my future.

So now I’ve asked God to help me to see myself the way that He sees me and to help me to realize that the things in my past don’t necessarily define who I really am. I’ve made it a goal to make better decisions, and even though things are still a little tough right now, I believe that as I train myself to make right decisions that things can only get better.

Thanks Project Gabriel!”