

PHASE 2

Launch Parish Inventory

Process *December 2020*



Here is a list of simple steps to guide you through Phase 2 of the Year of Service. These steps offer ideas on how to use the provided materials to begin the inventory process in your parish community—feel free to adjust and adapt as needed! During Phase 2 parishes will continue to assemble their core teams through personal invitations and expand their parish support network. Phase 2 also launches the parish inventory process and plans ahead to Mother’s Day (or any other weekend in May) to once again pray for pregnant women in need.

1. Host the first meeting with your core team.

Once your core team has been assembled, begin thinking about when your team can gather for the first time. Consult members about their availability and what days and times generally work best with their schedules. Begin thinking about your [agenda](#) and what you might hope to accomplish in this initial gathering. (See “[Hosting a Meeting](#)” for ideas and tips for planning your first gathering.)

2. Gather resources and information from your diocese.

Before beginning your parish inventory, we recommend contacting your local diocesan Respect Life [office](#). Many pregnancy resources are appropriately coordinated at the diocesan or regional level. Your diocesan office may already have completed its own diocesan inventory and be able to provide you with a list of resources within the diocese. This list will be a great resource for you as you complete your parish inventory.

3. Review the inventory tool.

The [inventory tool](#) provides a framework and structure to help your parish think about the various resources that a mother in need may find helpful. Using the inventory tool, each parish is asked to identify the local pregnancy help resources in their community that are currently available to a woman facing a difficult pregnancy. The needs of pregnant and parenting moms can be overwhelming, and the sources for help may not be apparent to those most needing support. Take time to familiarize yourself with the inventory tool.

4. Look Ahead - Celebrate Mother’s Day with the Year of Service.

While not a Catholic or liturgical observance, Mother’s Day is an appropriate opportunity to continue praying for mothers in need. We suggest utilizing this holiday (or another weekend in May) to highlight your new ministry, Walking with Moms in Need, in your parish community. (Sample announcements, intercession, and homily notes can be found in the full [Action Guide](#).)

5. Begin the inventory process.

The purpose of the inventory process is to find out what resources are currently available and allow you to assess these resources and identify possible gaps. Through site visits, phone calls, and research, begin filling out the [parish inventory](#). You may want to divide up different sections and assign them to core team members to research and report back to the group. Once the information has been gathered, both individually and as a group, compile everything into the inventory form. (See “[Completing the Parish Inventory](#)” for more detailed instructions on getting started.)