



The Gabriel Project®

An Apostolate for Christ

*Parish based crisis pregnancy
intervention within the Catholic Church*

*Subsidiarity, Solidarity,
Dignity of the Human Person*

The Gabriel Project®

- Work of Evangelization, bringing Mom & Parish to God
- Outreach of whole parish, organized by Respect Life
- Mom lives within Parish boundaries
- Gabriel Angel is member of local parish
- The Angel Mentors Mom, like-with-like apostolate
- Spiritual & Corporal works of mercy
- Sign of Life on Parish Property
- Costs nothing

Spiritual & Corporal works of Mercy

The spiritual works of mercy

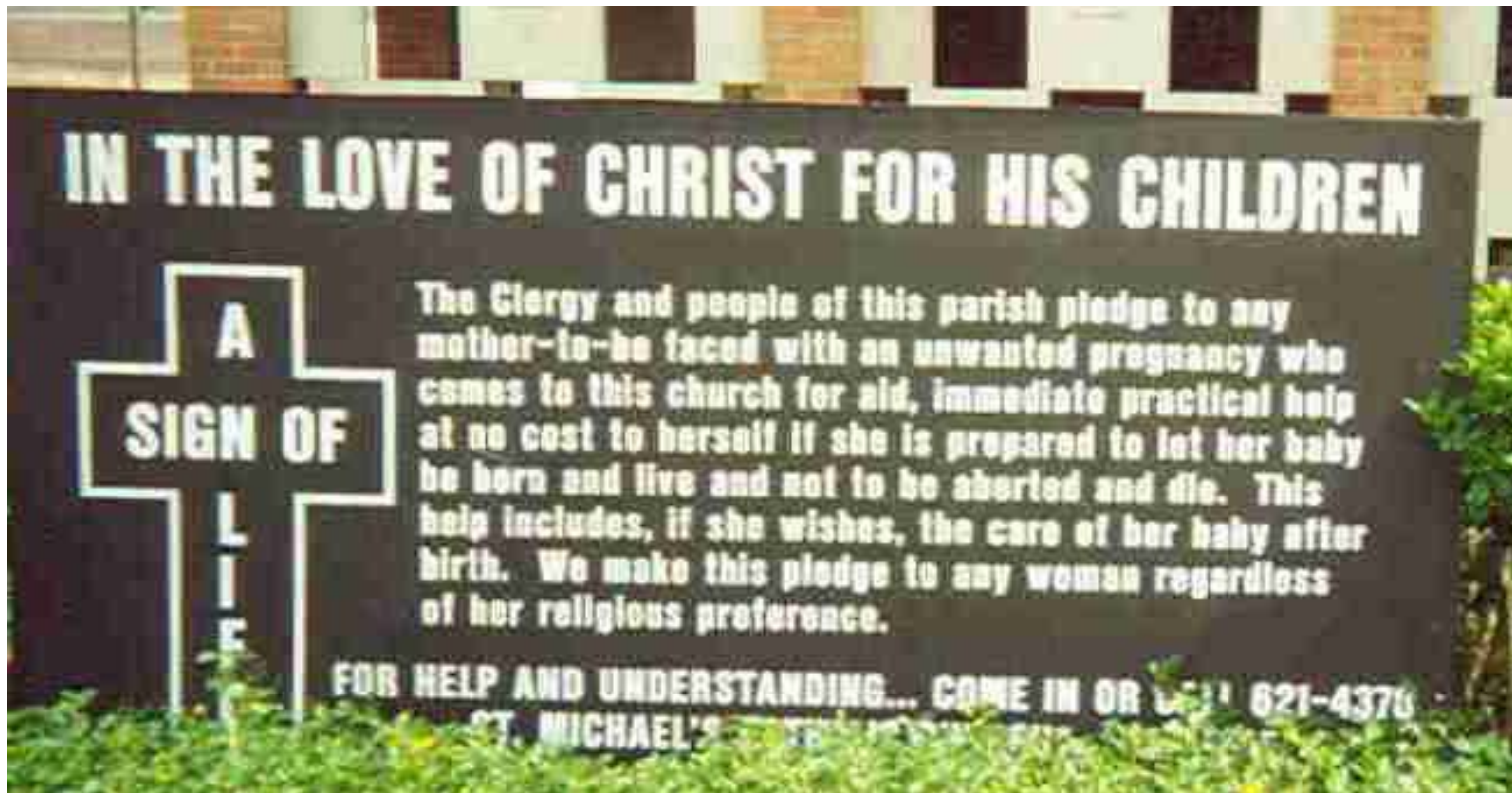
- To instruct the ignorant;
- To counsel the doubtful;
- To correct sinners;
- To bear wrongs patiently;
- To forgive offences willingly;
- To comfort the afflicted;
- To pray for the living and the dead.

The Corporal works of mercy

- To feed the hungry;
- To give drink to the thirsty;
- To clothe the naked;
- To shelter the Homeless
- To visit the sick;
- To ransom the captive;
- To bury the dead.

Charism of the Gabriel Project®

- Following *Roe v. Wade* 1973, the Rev. Msgr. John Perusina, late pastor of St. Michael Parish on Sage Road, Houston, put this sign outside the rectory offering help to any woman in need, Catholic and Non Catholic alike.
- In 1990, Cathy McConn and Rex Moses saw the sign and asked their Bishops if they could make this outreach in their Dioceses?



Crisis or Emergency

- Once Mom has met with her Mentor, her Gabriel Angel, her **crisis** is over although her **difficulties** are not. It will take some time to help Mom work out her difficulties.
- The Gabriel Project® is **not** an emergency service. All emergencies must go directly to the local emergency room or to the police.

The Gabriel Project® is a Parish Initiative

include everyone and every group in the parish

- Knights of Columbus
- Catholic Daughters
- Young Mothers club
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Parish Social Ministry
- Natural Family Planning
- Youth Groups
- Catholic School Children
- Legion of Mary
- Familia
- Knights of Peter Clever
- Ladies Auxiliary
- Guadalupanos

Criteria for Gabriel Angels

You cannot give what you do not possess

- Must be approved by the pastor
 - Must be a member of the Parish and in good standing with the Church
 - Must accept the Church's teaching on Marriage, Family and Life.
 - Must be faithful in observing the norms of Catholic life.
 - Must be willing to attend workshops four/ year and the Certificate Program
 - Preferably attends Mass daily
 - Preferably an older woman with children - like-with-life apostolate
 - Preferably a woman of temperate disposition
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- Any Group or Organization within the Church which assumes a supervisory role in the Gabriel Project® , must also be trained in the Apostolate. This includes Catholic Charities and Parish Social Ministry.

Different Tasks and aptitudes needed from Volunteers

The Gabriel Angels

- Intake sheets
- Meetings with mothers at parish
- Coming to understand Mom's needs/wants

The Baby Shower

- Making cakes and punch, Set up and decorate tables
- Organize, store, make layettes and distribute goods
- Gabriel Voucher System
- Tax free Documentation for large donations

Transport

- Mom to Clinics, appointments etc.
- Pick up and erect signs

Publicity Gabriel Project®

- Making and erecting parish signs
- Brochures/posters/B cards/bumper stickers
- Announcements in bulletin
- Announcements from alter

Publicity Project Rachel

- Flip card always discreetly available for parishioners in Church, Ladies Restroom
- Announcements in bulletin
- Posters

Publicity Baby Shower

- Announcements in bulletin
- Posters
- Fliers in bulletin

Benefits from State

- Parish Social Ministry
- WIC
- TANF
- Food Stamps
- Medicare

Medical Help

- Criteria for admittance to hospital/clinics for indigent and uninsured women

Major Catholic Support Services

- *A Catholic Health Care Provider Pre-Natal, Delivery and Post-Natal Care*
- *Mother & Baby Assistance for the Gabriel Project® . Baby Showers*
- *Project Rachel*
- *Telephone Volunteers*
- *Gabriel Clinic (Austin)*
- *Elizabeth Group*
- *Society of St. Vincent de Paul*
- *Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning,*
- *Catholic Charities,*
 - *Parish Social Ministry,*
 - *Services to Pregnant Adolescents and their families.*
 - *Adoption, foster care, and post adoption services*
- *Housing*
 - *The Worker Movement*
 - *St. Vincent DePaul*
 - *Sisters of Charity*

The Gabriel Project® National Office

Established December 12, 2002

- Dr. Marcella Colbert, MB, MRCPsych,
Director, Respect Life Office,
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Houston, Texas 77021
713-741-8728 mcolbert@archgh.org
Gabriel help line 713-225-5826
- Ann Bierschank, BSc,
Director, Office of Respect for Life,
Diocese of Austin, Texas
- Gabriel Resource Manual
- Angel Book
- Mom's Manuel
- Gabriel Prayer Book
- Brochures
- Bumper sticker
- Business Cards
- Poster

Sign of Life





Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Respect Life Office

Pregnant? Embarazada?
Need help? Necesita Ayuda?

713-225-5826

The Gabriel

Angel Formation

It is not I who Live, but Christ who lives in me.

- Personal Formation
 - Morning & Evening Prayer
 - Daily Mass
 - Reconciliation/4 weeks
 - Spiritual Direction
 - Retreats 2/year
 - Training 4/year
 - Monthly Parish Meetings
 - Telephone Meet 4/year
- Apostolate Formation
- Choose this Apostolate
- Getting to know Mom
 - Conversation/Listening
 - Keep notes/Confidentiality
 - Privilege to serve, being Christ to Mom
 - Knowing Limits
 - Like-with-like apostolate, apostolate of friendship

Parish Meetings

- **Meeting:**
 - One prayer from the Gabriel Project® Prayer book (5)
 - Evening Prayer from the Magnificat (15)
 - Read part of the Angel or Resource Manuel and discuss (15)
 - Reports on Gabriel Events (20)
 - Intercessionary prayers for ones family and your Gabriel Mom (10)
- **Guidelines**
 - Meetings must take place twice/month or more.
 - The Gabriel coordinator runs the meeting
 - Members must come on time
 - The meeting must not last longer than 1 hour 15 minutes.
 - You *must* attend meetings to be part of the project.
 - The meetings must be *confidential*
 - *This is not a social event.*

Difficulties

but Mary has chosen the better part

- **Social Service**

- Credentialed Professionals
- Paid experts/ Want to run everything
- Not members of community
- Life is a problem to be solved
- Secular understanding of Human Person - reductionist

- **Volunteering**

- This is not for the Angel but for Mom
- Not Social activity for Angel
- Giving self away to Mom to praise God
- Accept responsibility for commitment
- Accept Program as is.

Telephone Volunteer

- Answer the central phone line (
- give ½ a day /week
- special training and follow-up
- take the calls at the Gabriel Office or in their home through call forwarding.
- Speak Spanish
- Identify where the mother lives and arranges for her to be assisted by **The Gabriel Project® Church closest to the mother's home.**
- All Moms are assisted.
- contacts the Gabriel Project® coordinator at the parish.
- The Telephone Volunteer who takes a call continues to assist the caller until the mother is settled.
- Telephone volunteers do **NOT** give Mom the phone numbers of the Gabriel coordinators or volunteers.
- first to meet the distressed mother on the phone and make the referrals, which will help her.
- **Cathy McConn** is the Gabriel Project® Coordinator. **All difficult calls are referred to her.**

Mission

- *Indeed, the Lord Jesus, when He prayed to the Father, “that all may be one...as we are one”(Jn 17:21-22) opened up vistas closed to human reason, for He implied a certain likeness between the union of the divine Persons, and the unity of God’s sons in truth and charity. This likeness reveals that **man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.***

Gaudium et Spes (24)

Mission

- Work of **Evangelization**, meeting those who suffer where they are, helping them to come to the Church for help and support. *At the beginning of the Third Millennium John Paul II*
- **Like-with-like** apostolate of the laity through an apostolate of friendship and of presence, *Apostolicam actusitatem, Decree of the Apostolate of Lay People. Vatican II*
- **Collaborative ministry** working in solidarity with all the other ministries and apostolates in the parish and Diocese,
- **Come closer to God**, through acts of self giving to others and through a greater reliance on prayer and worship in our own lives.
- **Personal and Sacramental reconciliation** and healing *Dives in Meseracordia, John Paul II*
- Implement *The Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life*

To Rome: The Gabriel Project®

for recognition as a Lay Ecclesial Movement. *Christifideles Laici P 30*

Criteria of "Ecclesiality" for Lay Groups

- - The primacy given to the call of every Christian to holiness
- - The responsibility of professing the Catholic faith
- - The witness to a strong and authentic communion
- - Conformity to and participation in the Church's apostolic goals,
- - A commitment to a presence in human society,

The Gabriel Project® is Dedicated to
Our Lady of Guadalupe

*And Mary said: “I am the
servant of the Lord. Let it
be done to me as you say.”
Luke 1:16*

Mother and Patroness of the
Unborn,
Star of the New Evangelization

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of
God

