



# Lifelines

The Respect Life Committee at St. Francis is an Apostolate that is totally committed to defending the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.  
[www.stfrancisparish.org/respectlife.htm](http://www.stfrancisparish.org/respectlife.htm)

St. Francis of Assisi  
Respect Life Committee

June 2009

Announcing

## Mary's House

*A crisis pregnancy outreach within the Catholic Church*

*Offering Hope and Help to pregnant women*

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**Next Respect Life  
Committee Meeting:  
Mary's House Training  
Assisi Hall  
Date TBD**

### St. Gerard's Column

Please pray for these  
expectant moms:

**Heather Glymph**  
(due with twins in Aug)

**Analia Anniballi**  
(due Sep)

**Noreen Brennan**

**Maria (Fornadel) Beck**  
(due Nov)

**Margaret of Clitherow\***  
(due in Jan)

Please pray for all moms  
who recently have  
experienced the loss of their  
unborn child.

Please pray for the inten-  
tions of women who desire  
the gift of motherhood but  
are experiencing the pain of  
infertility including:

**Gertrude\***  
**Mary Street Moore**

Contact Monica Wirth at  
886-6644 to add someone to  
the St. Gerard prayer list.

*\*pseudonym used for privacy*

*"See, the eyes of the  
LORD are upon those  
who fear him,*

*upon those who hope  
for his kindness,*

*To deliver them from  
death*

*and preserve them in  
spite of famine.*

*Our soul waits for the  
LORD,*

*who is our help and  
our shield.*

*May your kindness, O  
LORD, be upon us,*

*who have put our hope  
in you."*

in the LORD. It is  
this hope and help  
that we have re-  
ceived from our  
LORD that we as a  
parish family wish to  
reach out and offer  
to our neighbors.

This Sunday we  
introduce

*Mary's House*

to the parish, a new  
outreach intended to  
offer that hope and  
help to any pregnant  
woman who comes  
to our door.

*Mary's House* will  
seek to help a mother  
with physical, mate-  
rial, spiritual and emo-  
tional support through  
a long-term friendship  
and a witness to the  
infinite and healing  
love of God.

*Mary's House* volun-  
teers meet the mom  
with unconditional  
love, understanding,  
and compassion and  
assist her in finding  
the resources she  
needs so that she may  
choose life for her  
baby.

A mom who is in need  
will reach *Mary's  
House* by calling one  
of the numbers on the  
"Sign of Hope", two  
of which will be lo-

In today's reading from  
Psalm 33, we are re-  
minded of our hope in  
God's kindness, his de-  
liverance of our lives  
and souls from death,  
and of the help and  
hope we can find only

*Mary's House* is a  
ministry of hospital-  
ity, launched by the  
Respect Life Com-  
mittee of St. Francis,  
but intended to in-  
volve the entire par-  
ish family.



cated outside the church facing both adjacent streets. The mom may also learn about *Mary's House* by word of mouth, by business cards circulated throughout the community, or in the yellow pages. She may also just walk into the parish office. No matter how the mom reaches *Mary's House*, she is always met with unconditional love, understanding, and compassion.

Under the pastoral guidance of Father Burt Sare, *Mary's House* will be co-directed by Kristi Walsh and Lisa Olshove, parishioners who have volunteered their time and expertise to this new outreach. When contacted by a mom in crisis, the directors will help the mom overcome her crisis, guide the mom in assessing her needs and determine the best sources of help for her. Mom will be encouraged to meet with the pastor and will be assigned a Mother Mentor. The Mentor contacts the mom and sets up a visit with her. The Mentor is a trained parish volunteer, ready to serve as an advocate on behalf of the mother. The Mentor, working with the directors, continues to determine the best sources of help to

meet the mom's needs. If the best source of help is within the parish, the parish is called upon to provide for the needs of the mom. If the best source of help is within the community, the directors help the mom obtain the community resources she needs. A resource database will be maintained by *Mary's House*. Around the seventh month of pregnancy, the Mother Mentor coordinates with the baby shower volunteer to host a baby shower and present the mom with a layette from the parish.



**Prototype  
“Sign of Hope”**

The Mentor is always there as a willing, compassionate and non-judgmental listener to help support the mom and ease her anxiety. The Mentor's support is the manifestation of God's love to the woman experiencing a crisis pregnancy. This love is a witness of the infinite and healing love of God. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and through this pastoral care we evangelize and educate.

Today we are asking each member of the parish to consider how they might be involved in *Mary's House*.

There are many ways to offer one's time, talent or treasure, many of which are listed on the sign-up form in the bulletin, from offering rides to becoming a Mother Mentor.

Once volunteer mentors have completed a brief training this summer, we will open *Mary's House* by placing signs on both New and Augusta Streets, and listing the number in the Yellow Book.

As we begin this new endeavor together, let us pray:

*“May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us, who have put our hope in you.”*