

District Meeting Summary of the Table Discussions

Susan Lettieri said that if anyone has any questions, we can contact her at susan.lettieri@gmail.com

What advantages, if any, are there for pursuing *Walking with Moms in Need* as a district ministry? If any, are there for pursuing the ministry by individual parishes?

- More advantages to starting the program as a district. More resources.
- Need to figure out relationship between churches and resources in the Community.
- District -more collaborative.
- Lots of local resources available.
- District to have more volunteers
- District Ad. – resources (broader) several locations.
- Individual parishes: outside of ownership- not many advantages.
- St JV – St Vincent de Paul serves many of these needs.
- District – collaborative to collect resources. Pool resources (storage), the need is emotional not the handout.
- District – pooling resources. Try to get one person per parish. Timing is good with the Dobb's decision.
- Individual parishes – easier to volunteer together.

If *Walking with Moms in Need* is taken on as a district ministry, what would need to be the first course of action?

- Need to get a core committee together.
- Need to talk to resources in our area. (Ivy, Hanna's Home, Birthright. Christ Child).
- Ask someone to take the lead.
- Communication plan.
- Form a committee.
- What resources are available?
- Talk with the Parish Secretaries to see how informed they are. Important for them to be kind and compassionate and know where to send people.
- A core team followed by resources and funds.
- District would need a strong core team / coordinator.
- Form core group.
- Build resource pool.
- Get Parish buy-in to ensure word is out there for those in need.
- Who is willing? Could one parish take the lead and the district support it?
- Where are the highest rate of teen pregnancies? Where are the greatest single mom households?

What agencies/resources within the Lake/Geauga counties would be helpful to connect with in beginning a *Walking with Moms in Need* ministry?

- Ivy, Hanna's Home, Birthright. Christ Child.
- St Vincent de Paul, Helping Hands (St. Bede's), Food Pantries.
- Elizabeth Ministry (St. Gabriel)
- Birthright, Catholic Charities, St Vincent de Paul.
- Health and Family Services
- St. James and food shelters.
- Subzero Mission, Woman kind, Rehab Centers/halfway houses (later)

Which parishes within your table discussion already have an active parish ministry that serves moms/parents in need?

- St. Gabriel – St Vincet de Paul, "Holy Knitters, "Christmas Gifts", Baby Bottles on Mothers Day.
- Elizabeth Ministry (St. Gabriel), infant loss.
- St. Bede – Helping Hands, Food Pantry, Hugs and Stiches, (Most not particularly for moms)
- Not St. Mary's Chardon.
- None
- St. JV – St Vincet de Paul, Helping Hands, Respect life Committees (St JV and SJM)
- St Noel – on a need-by-need basis.

At your table, how many of you recommend looking into this further as a district ministry, and how many of you recommend that it remain a parish-based ministry?

- All in favor of the District.
- St Gabriel table sees this as a district ministry.
- Keep as a District Ministry to tap into as many resources as possible or maybe as a county wide ministry to know how to reach the mom.
- All four for the District.
- 6 District / 0 parish
- Parishes at our table said we should do a little bit of both.

If this is further pursued as a district ministry, please list your name or the names of others at your parish who you believe would be interested in serving on a committee.

- TBD but (St. Bede's) has ideas.
- Karen Brenizer (St. Gabriel)
- Chris Siemen (St. Gabriel).
- Prolife committees?
- Debbie Kacsala – (St. Cyprian)
- Kyle Lorek – (St. Mary of the Assumption).
- Too soon to say. It would be interesting to reach out to parishes and see what kind of response we'd get.