

Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service **REVISED SAMPLE TIMELINES**

Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service is designed to be a yearlong initiative comprised of a number of simple steps. To help parishes and dioceses plan for and organize their participation in this nationwide effort, the process is broken up into five specific phases of parish activity. While the original proposed timeline ran from March 25, 2020 to March 25, 2021, parishes and dioceses have always been encouraged to adjust this sample schedule to account for events, observances, or other schedule conflicts at the local level.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the need for flexibility and local adaptation has significantly increased. Many dioceses across the country have had to postpone their official launch of *Walking with Moms in Need*. To account for these unforeseen challenges, we are providing possible revised timelines to help dioceses and parishes consider alternate schedules for completing the *Year of Service*. *As always, feel free to adjust and adapt these resources to best meet your local needs!*

ORIGINAL SAMPLE TIMELINE

- **Phase 1:** Announce *Year of Service* and Begin Building a Core Team (March 2020)
- **Phase 2:** Launch Parish Inventory Process (May 2020)
- **Phase 3:** Share Inventory Results and Begin Assessment and Planning (September 2020)
- **Phase 4:** Announce and Commit to Parish Response (January 2021)
- **Phase 5:** Celebrate and Implement Parish Plans (March 2021)

REVISED SAMPLE TIMELINES

Beginning October 2020 – Respect Life Month

One option is to launch or relaunch Walking with Moms in Need during Respect Life Month. This year's Respect Life theme—"Live the Gospel of Life"—naturally connects to the Year of Service and can be a great way to recapture attention and momentum. It also allows parishes to celebrate their efforts during next year's Respect Life Month in 2021.

- **Phase 1:** Announce *Year of Service* and Begin Building a Core Team (October 2020)
- **Phase 2:** Launch Parish Inventory Process (December 2020)
- **Phase 3:** Share Inventory Results and Begin Assessment and Planning (April 2021)
- **Phase 4:** Announce and Commit to Parish Response (August 2021)
- **Phase 5:** Celebrate and Implement Parish Plans (October 2021)

Beginning January 2021 – Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*

*Your diocese may consider launching or relaunching Walking with Moms in Need in January 2021. Due to the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, January tends to be a popular time for Respect*

Life activities. If your diocese determines this is the best time to launch the initiative, we recommend separating the Year of Service from political/legislative advocacy efforts that are common during this time of year. Walking with Moms in Need has a pastoral focus that allows parishioners to unite around a positive, life-affirming effort, rather than what may often seem to some as a partisan divide.

- **Phase 1:** Announce *Year of Service* and Begin Building a Core Team (January 2021)
- **Phase 2:** Launch Parish Inventory Process (March 2021)
- **Phase 3:** Share Inventory Results and Begin Assessment and Planning (July 2021)
- **Phase 4:** Announce and Commit to Parish Response (November 2021)
- **Phase 5:** Celebrate and Implement Parish Plans (January 2022)

Beginning March 2021 – Anniversary of *Evangelium vitae*

*With all the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, your diocese may want to postpone Walking with Moms in Need for a full year and launch on the anniversary of *Evangelium vitae*. If you discern this is best for your diocese, you can utilize the original timeline, shifted one year. This will give you extra time to familiarize yourself with the process and plan for its implementation in the meantime.*

- **Phase 1:** Announce *Year of Service* and Begin Building a Core Team (March 2021)
- **Phase 2:** Launch Parish Inventory Process (May 2021)
- **Phase 3:** Share Inventory Results and Begin Assessment and Planning (September 2021)
- **Phase 4:** Announce and Commit to Parish Response (January 2022)
- **Phase 5:** Celebrate and Implement Parish Plans (March 2022)

CREATE YOUR OWN TIMELINE

Because each diocese and parish is unique, the revised timelines may still not fit your specific needs. Feel free to adjust, adapt, and create your own! Below is the recommended amount of time to allot for the completion of each phase; however, these are also flexible. Phases can be condensed or extended to accommodate for scheduling challenges and conflicts at both the diocesan and parish levels. And remember to take into account busy parish times, like Advent and Lent.

- **Phase 1:** Announce *Year of Service* and Begin Building a Core Team (1-2 months)
- **Phase 2:** Launch Parish Inventory Process (3-4 months)
- **Phase 3:** Share Inventory Results and Begin Assessment and Planning (3-4 months)
- **Phase 4:** Announce and Commit to Parish Response (1-2 months)
- **Phase 5:** Celebrate and Implement Parish Plans (1-2 months)