

## HOSPITALITY FOR

# *Expectant Mothers and Fathers*

The gift of new life creates a bond between parents, the unborn child, and the Church. Parenthood does not come with an instruction manual. And many parents do not know where to look or who to talk to find resources and support. In some communities these resources are not available. Many expectant mothers and fathers are faced with hardships such as economic struggles, lack of work, malnutrition, and mental illness. Some families are immigrants that recently arrived in the states and have a language barrier that impedes their ability to express their struggle and need. No parent should feel abandoned and alone, and the parish should be a place of refuge, of help, of support and of empowerment to all expectant parents no matter what their situation.



## REFLECT

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author exhorted the community to practice hospitality, “Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.” (Heb. 13.2)

*Call to Holiness, Bishop Jaime Soto*

With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth. *Evangelium Vitae, 95*

When a loving person can do good for others, or sees that others are happy, they themselves live happily and in this way give glory to God, for “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). Our Lord especially appreciates those who find joy in the happiness of others. If we fail to learn how to rejoice in the well-being of others, and focus primarily on our own needs, we condemn our-selves to a joyless existence, for, as Jesus said, “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). The family must always be a place where, when something good happens to one of its members, they know that others will be there to celebrate it with them. *Amoris Laetitia, 110*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the parish currently provide to expectant mothers and fathers? Is supporting mothers and fathers in need a priority for the parish as a whole or just one small group or ministry?
2. Where can parents get support, training and resources in our community? How can we partner with them? What can the parish provide that other organizations cannot?
3. How can the parish educate itself on the needs of parents in our community? How can the church better connect with expectant mothers and fathers in the community?
4. Are there older parents and grandparents in our community who could act as mentors and guides to expectant parents? How would we connect them?