

CRISIS PREGNANCY SERVICES AND CENTERS IN THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

In their 1995 statement entitled *Faithful For Life*, the United States Bishops pledged “the heart and the hands of the Church to help mothers and fathers in need to find pregnancy counseling, pre- and postnatal care, housing and material support, and adoption services.”

Throughout Florida, an enormous outpouring of concern in churches and communities has resulted in the development of many centers and services to assist pregnant women in need. While the Catholic Church appreciates and commends all efforts to provide such assistance, we recognize the complexity of services required and the need for appropriate criteria. People are formed by many religious and philosophical beliefs. In Catholic centers, it is our hope that our own commitment to see Christ in every person and to be Christ for every person will be self-evident.

The following criteria have been developed for Crisis Pregnancy Services in the Catholic community. Their use will assure clients, their families, physicians, pastors and parishes that the service they consider is committed to their well-being. Catholic centers and services strive to meet these criteria, and will network with other services that embrace them.

CRITERIA

Centers will:

- offer comfort and care to women in crisis pregnancies and provide them with alternatives to abortion in a manner that is personal, confidential and non-judgmental;
- reflect a commitment to the well-being of both the mother and child by providing services which nurture a stable future for women and their families;
- offer information and available assistance to pregnant women in need;
- provide services regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, age or marital status;
- respect each client’s religious and philosophical beliefs;
- have policies and practices that do not advise, provide or refer for abortion, abortifacients, or artificial contraceptives;
- provide assistance with adoption services and counseling, through referrals to Catholic Charities offices and others in the community.

*Approved by the Bishops
September 27, 1997*