

First Step for Change

Suggested Bulletin/Pulpit Announcements 2009



June 6-7

Beginning this weekend, our parish will be participating in *First Step for Change*, a project sponsored by the Catholic Charities and the Diocesan Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Ministry, to collect spare change to assist low-income pregnant women and families with food, formula, clothing, diapers and other items essential to a child's health, safety and well-being. Each family interested in participating in *First Step for Change* is asked to pick up a baby bottle (MENTION WHERE THE BOTTLES ARE LOCATED) after Mass. Take the bottle home, put it in a common location (on the kitchen table, on the counter, by the telephone, etc.), and fill it with spare change during the month of June. The process is similar to the Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl campaign. The weekend of June 27-28, 2009, you will be asked to bring your filled bottle to church with you for collection. Remember: the bottles need to be returned so that they do not have to be purchased again next year.

June 13-14

This weekend, you are reminded to pick up a *First Step for Change* bottle (IF THEY ARE STILL AVAILABLE; IF THERE ARE NO MORE BOTTLES LEFT, SUGGEST THAT FAMILIES USE SOME OTHER CONTAINER TO COLLECT SPARE CHANGE) if you still wish to participate in this project. The funds collected through this effort will be used to help low-income mothers-to-be give their children a healthy start in life. If an expectant mother does not have access to food, shelter, clothing and essential items— like cribs or car seats— her baby is at-risk from the very beginning. Take home a bottle today, fill it with spare change, and make a difference in the lives of low-income pregnant women and families with small children.

June 20-21

One way to support the Catholic Church's pro-life, pro-family position is to participate in *First Step for Change*, a project sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Ministry and Catholic Charities to collect spare change to assist low-income pregnant women and families with food, formula, clothing, diapers and other items essential to a child's health, safety and well-being. Pick up a bottle (IF THEY ARE STILL AVAILABLE; IF THERE ARE NO MORE BOTTLES LEFT, SUGGEST THAT FAMILIES USE SOME OTHER CONTAINER TO COLLECT SPARE CHANGE) and fill it with spare change. Support the Gospel of Life by reaching out to women and families who need a helping hand.

Next weekend we will be wrapping up the *First Step for Change* campaign at our parish. Please remember to bring your filled baby bottle with you to Mass next week (DESCRIBE THE LOCATION OR THE METHOD YOU PLAN TO USE FOR COLLECTION).

June 27-28

Thanks to all of you who have participated in the *First Step for Change* campaign at our parish (DESCRIBE THE LOCATION OR METHOD FOR COLLECTING THE BOTTLES).