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RESOURCE GUIDE

2016-17 Respect Life Program

MOVED BY MERCY
The Respect Life Program, including this resource guide, is meant to help leaders integrate the Church’s vision of the human person into their various ministries.

Although suggestions are given for using various elements of the program, innovative use of the materials is encouraged.

For example, although recommended for use on Respect Life Sunday and the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, the intercessions can be used any time of the year. Similarly, the homily notes could be used as inspiration for a talk by a lay leader.

We would like to know how you use the materials. Email us at prolife@usccb.org!
These suggestions are meant to provide some ideas for ministry, parish, school, or personal use. Be sure to know and follow all local policies and procedures, particularly safe environment and parental rights policies, and to obtain the appropriate permissions before moving forward. If you have any questions about applicable policies, contact your parish, school, diocese, and/or other relevant authoritative entities.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly all materials are available to order or download for free* at www.usccb.org/respectlife!

*Folder not available for download.

Folder: The folder can be used for more than just holding the 2016-2017 Respect Life Program materials! For example, put a label with customized information for your organization (ministry, parish, school, diocese, etc.) on the right inside pocket, and use the folder to hold participant materials for local conferences, retreats, and gatherings.

Catalog: Make others aware of the variety of materials available to order from the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, ranging from prayer cards to posters and more. Because of the wide array available, people serving in various capacities can find helpful resources for their job or ministry. Give them copies of the catalog, or direct them to www.usccb.org/respectlife, where they can access it online.

Resource Guide: The Respect Life Program, and therefore this resource guide, is meant to help leaders integrate the Church’s vision of the human person into their various ministries. It is not intended to be prescriptive, nor is it comprehensive. Although suggestions are given for using various elements of the program, leaders are encouraged to use the materials in innovative ways.

Additionally, we would be like to know how you creatively put the materials to use in order to continue improving the resources we provide. So please let us know how you use the materials by emailing us at prolife@usccb.org!

POSTER:

CLERGY

Deliver a homily on the theme, “Moved by Mercy,” tying it together with respect for each person and his or her life. Encourage parishioners to take home copies of the image, make a related resolution for the week, and post the image somewhere in their home to remind them of their resolution.
PARISHES

- Put up the poster in the back of church, on the inside of the front door, and/or in the parish office. Leave it up all year, or put it up during Respect Life Month (October) and January (the month in which the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children occurs).

- Print the poster from www.usccb.org/respectlife on 8.5” x 11” paper. Use it as a bulletin insert, or make copies available for parishioners to take home.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Hold a contest or raffle (following local laws and policies regarding such events). Place a receptacle, entry forms, and an explanatory sign beneath the poster during the month of October. Other than contact information, require that each entry include a concrete suggestion* for cherishing the gift of human life. The winning entry/entries could be drawn at random, or a prize could be given for the best idea(s)—for example, printing them in the parish bulletin and implementing them.

*Example: Parishioners could sign an oversized card made out of poster board with a specific prayer commitment for women facing unexpected pregnancies; the card could then be given to a local pregnancy care center.

FAITH FORMATION

Print the poster from www.usccb.org/respectlife, make copies and hand them out to participants in faith formation programs. Incorporate the message of “Moved by Mercy,” as it pertains to respect for each person’s life, into regular programming.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Hang the poster in the classroom. Explain the theme within the context of respecting each other’s God-given dignity, which nothing can take away, and the consequential importance of cherishing each person’s life.

Provide a sticky note to each student, and instruct them to each write down an example of living out mercy in a way that respects others’ dignity. (Give examples from the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.)

Post their ideas next to the poster, and invite the students to take down a sticky note (not their own), do the action, and write a one-paragraph reflection on the experience for extra credit.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hang the poster in the meeting space, and plan an event based on the message of “Moved by Mercy” within the context of life issues. Highlight ways in which the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy can help us cherish the gift of every person’s life. (This would be a natural follow-up to the experience of World Youth Day, but need not be limited to such events.)

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Coordinate a service event based on the message of “Moved by Mercy” within the context of life issues. Ask a few of the young adults who attend to speak about their experiences in light of the theme at a regularly scheduled upcoming event, or hold an event specifically for this purpose.

ARTICLES:

CLERGY

- Incorporate points from the articles into homilies throughout the year, and coordinate with parish staff to make the relevant article or other information available for parishioners at that time.

For example, in a homily on mercy, mention that help is available for those who suffer after abortion, include the web address www.hopeafterabortion.org in that week’s bulletin, and refer to it in the homily or announcements.

Or in a homily on love for neighbor, refer to articles such as “Caring for Loved One’s at Life’s End” and “Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption,” which offer concrete suggestions.

- Feature a new article each month in the literature rack. The week the new article is available, alert the congregation in the pulpit announcements and incorporate it into the weekly homily or bulletin reflection from the pastor.

PARISHES

Feature a different article each month. Include a quote with a link to the full article in the bulletin, highlight and link to the article on the parish website, and share the article on social media.*

*See also: Free social media training webinar. (http://goo.gl/xfjhNe). Although this one-hour webinar took place during the 2015-2016 Respect Life Program, the principles covered remain pertinent, and continued use of the shareable graphics is encouraged.
RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
Distribute the articles (in print or online) among other participants in Respect Life ministry to read by a certain time. Schedule a casual get-together with light refreshments or at a local café or restaurant. Discuss the articles and what was most helpful. Together, brainstorm ideas for how to use the articles as tools for reaching others compassionately with the merciful message of respect for life.

FAITH FORMATION
Incorporate the articles into regular programming, and make parishioners and fellow religious educators aware of them as resources.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION
• Bring the articles (and Simple Supplements) to the attention of school counselors, teachers, and other professional staff. Make school counselors, teachers, and other professional staff aware of the articles as reference resources.
• Incorporate information from the articles into classroom curriculums.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Split the young people into small groups. Give each group an age-appropriate article to read and discuss. Have each group present a summary of the article and the fruits of their discussion (based on reflection questions written by the youth minister ahead of time). Provide markers and easel pads, and give extra points if the teens are able to tastefully and respectfully incorporate hand-drawn renditions of emojis* into their presentations.
*Emoji: Small image typically used in text messages or online media to convey emotion, action, or other meaning.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
Use the articles as inspiration for the structure of presentations or simply as reference.

PARISH
• Use as a bulletin insert.
• Hang the flyer up on parish doors, bulletin boards, and other high-traffic areas.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
Gather with other members of Respect Life ministry to reflect upon the theme together—both for personal enrichment and to consider the ministry’s activities in light of the theme for the year.

FAITH FORMATION
Incorporate the reflection into regular programming to highlight the Church’s vision of the human person and how it relates to our daily lives. It may be helpful to draw upon the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy* for examples relevant both to individual life and to life as a member of the Church, the Body of Christ.
*“Listed in section of resource guide entitled “Simple Supplements.”

CATHOLIC EDUCATION
• Use as a reflection before beginning class.
• Assign students to read the flyer and then write a brief reflection of their own.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Use the reflection as inspiration for a special talk or event during October and/or January.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
• Send the reflection out in e-newsletters, and share on social media.
• Use as a reflection before regularly scheduled events, especially during the months of October (Respect Life Month) and January (the month of the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children).
• Use the reflection as inspiration for a special talk or event during October and/or January.

REFLECTION FLYER:

CLERGY
• Use the reflection (in whole or in part) in the pastor’s reflection in the bulletin.
• Use as inspiration for a homily.
The Respect Life Program, sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, started in 1972 and begins anew each October—the month set aside by the U.S. bishops as “Respect Life Month.”

The program promotes respect for human life in light of our intrinsic dignity as having been created in God’s image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with him.

New materials are designed each year to assist those in various roles within the Church to help Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with supporting the dignity of every person, especially by cherishing God’s gift of life.

Download or order materials at www.usccb.org/respectlife!

SUGGESTED OBSERVANCE:

Respect Life Sunday, October 2, 2016
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Gospel Acclamation: 1 Peter 1:25
Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

I. Our Troubled World

A. In today’s First Reading, we hear a voice crying out to God with questions many of us can relate to: “How long, O LORD? I cry for help but you do not listen! ...Why do you let me see ruin; why must I look at misery?” We see and experience suffering in our own lives and in the world.

• Example A: In 2015, 48% of those who died under Oregon’s assisted suicide law cited being a “burden” on family, friends, or caregivers as a reason for their suicide.¹

• Example B: “We often assume parenthood happens easily after ‘I do,’ but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages” or secondary infertility.²

• Example C: [Give examples from relevant news headlines.]

B. Sin also causes suffering. God creates us in his image and likeness and calls us to union with him now and for eternity. When we sin against others, we are treating them contrary to their God-given dignity and are also acting against our own nature.
II. Reason for Hope

A. We have all sinned against each other. But God expresses his love for each of us through his limitless mercy, revealed in Jesus’ death on the Cross.

B. His mercy does not mean indifferently overlooking our sins, leaving us in our sinful ways and the misery they bear. Rather, he offers mercy that we must actively choose to receive by repenting and resolving to amend our lives.

C. Though unworthy, we are shown forgiveness and love by God himself. This love moves our hearts with gratitude and joy.

III. Agents of Mercy

A. Receiving God’s mercy helps us draw closer to him and become more like him.

B. Christ asks us to be his hands and feet in a world filled with pain and suffering, tragedy and injustice.

C. We will face challenges, but the Lord equips those whom he calls. The Second Reading reminds us that “God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love... So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord... but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God” (2 Timothy 1:6-8).

D. The Lord has also given us a roadmap—the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy— noting, “whatever you [do] for one of these least brothers of mine, you [do] for me” (Matthew 25:40). During his visit to the U.S., Pope Francis reiterated this, saying, “your care for one another is care for Jesus himself.”

EXAMPLES

(The Works of Mercy and other quick reference information is provided in the section of this resource guide entitled “Simple Supplements.”)

- Example A: Tens of millions of lives in this nation have been directly touched by abortion. If a friend shares a previous abortion experience, express your sympathy for their loss.

  If they seem to need help, assure them of God’s unconditional love, and encourage them to seek healing and peace. Explain that the Church’s Project Rachel Ministry for post-abortion healing can help, and refer them to www.HopeAfterAbortion.org.

- Example B: In a society that emphasizes productivity, pleasure, and independence, it is all the more important to accompany those nearing the end of life. We need to remind them they are not alone, they are loved, and the value of their lives is not dependent upon anything transient.

- Example C: “Our distorted relationship with God has infected our relationship with the earth, evidenced by pollution, lack of clean water, toxic waste, and immense material waste. ... What the Holy Father often calls a ‘culture of waste’ or a ‘throwaway culture’ even goes so far as to see and treat human life as disposable.”

  We need to cultivate within ourselves “an attitude of the heart, one which approaches life with serene attentiveness, which is capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what comes next.” With this attitude, as we draw closer to God and to each other, we will become more attuned to God’s call.


5 Pope Francis, Laudato Si’ (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015), no. 226.

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INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE

OCTOBER 2, 2016:
RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

For all Catholics:
May we be channels of God’s mercy
by loving each person
and celebrating the gift of his or her life;
We pray to the Lord:

For women and men suffering after abortion:
May the Church’s post-abortion
healing ministry
help them find peace
through God’s limitless mercy;
We pray to the Lord:

For those nearing the end of life:
May God strengthen their faith
and comfort them
through others’ loving support;
We pray to the Lord:

For those doubting their own worth:
May they find lasting reassurance
in the truth of God’s love for them;
We pray to the Lord:

For those longing for a child of their own:
May they find comfort
in the assurance of God’s loving plan;
We pray to the Lord:

For parents placing their children
for adoption:
May they encounter the outstretched hands
of the Father’s love
through our words and actions;
We pray to the Lord:

For the criminal justice system:
May it be rooted in mercy and healing
and affirm the sacredness
of each person’s life;
We pray to the Lord:

For those diagnosed with a terminal illness:
May each hour of their lives be cherished
with care that honors God’s gift of life;
We pray to the Lord:

For all people:
May the Lord soften our hearts
with compassion,
that we may treat each person
with respect that affirms
the gift of his or her life;
We pray to the Lord:
JANUARY 22, 2017:  
DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

For unborn children:  
May they be lovingly welcomed into this world by family, friends, and the local community;  
We pray to the Lord:

For expectant mothers whose hearts are troubled:  
May they receive helpful, loving support for themselves and their babies;  
We pray to the Lord:

For those grieving after abortion:  
May they know God’s limitless mercy and seek help through the Church’s post-abortion healing ministry;  
We pray to the Lord:

For expectant mothers placing their children for adoption:  
May they receive loving support as they walk this journey;  
We pray to the Lord:

For those working in post-abortion healing ministries:  
May God’s mercy radiate through them as they provide love and support to those grieving after abortion;  
We pray to the Lord:

For families whose unborn child is not expected to live long:  
May they find strength and peace in the support of others;  
We pray to the Lord:

For medical professionals who work against human life:  
May they find renewed reverence for God’s gift of life and treat all people with life-affirming respect;  
We pray to the Lord:

For all couples facing unexpected pregnancies:  
May the Lord give them peace, hope, and love for their child and each other;  
We pray to the Lord:

For those who are working to build a culture that welcomes and respects all human life:  
May God help them bring his love and mercy to those in need;  
We pray to the Lord:

MAY EXPECTANT MOTHERS RECEIVE LOVING SUPPORT.
CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**Corporal:** The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46) and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They “are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs.”¹ They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Shelter the homeless
Visit the sick
Visit the prisoners
Bury the dead
Give alms to the poor

**Spiritual:** The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to “help our neighbor in their spiritual needs.”²

Counseling the doubtful
Instructing the ignorant
Admonishing the sinner
Comforting the sorrowful
Forgiving injuries
Bearing wrongs patiently
Praying for the living and the dead

Bridges of Mercy for Post-Abortion Healing

Scripture

Catechism of the Catholic Church
211, 1464-65, 1468-1470, 1846–1848

From the Popes

USCCB Resources
- [www.HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://www.HopeAfterAbortion.org)  
  Healing stories, letters, prayers, and local ministry contact information for the Church’s Project Rachel Ministry for post-abortion healing.
- Project Rachel: Peace Starts Here  
  8-panel brochure. Item #1016.  
  Spanish Item #1017.
- How to Talk to a Friend Who’s Had an Abortion  
  6-panel brochure. Item #0120.  
  Spanish Item #0121.
- Healing within Marriage from an Abortion  
  8-panel brochure. Item #1441.  
  Spanish Item #1451.
- The Hollow Men: Male Grief & Trauma Following Abortion  
  8-panel brochure. Item #0846.
- Trust in God’s Mercy (prayer card)  
  Prayer card. Item #9913. Spanish Item #9914.

Saints
- St. Maria Faustina Kowalska: “In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary.”
- Pope St. John Paul II, among many other encyclicals, wrote *Dives in Misericordia (Rich in Mercy)* and *Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life)*. He also canonized St. Faustina, stating in the homily of the Mass for her canonization that the Second Sunday of Easter, from then on, “will be called ‘Divine Mercy Sunday’.”

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“After my abortion I was broken and desperate for help. I turned to Project Rachel. After the experience, I left feeling like a whole person again. Forgiveness became a reality for me, a feeling I never imagined was possible.”

“As the father of an aborted baby I felt not only loss but failure. Through Project Rachel I was able to regain a sense of self-worth and return to my faith.”

“Women with a history of abortion have higher rates of anxiety (34% higher), depression (37%), alcohol use/ misuse (110%) ... and suicidal behavior (155%), compared to those who have not had an abortion.”

“Male responses to a partner’s abortion include grief, guilt, depression, anxiety, feelings of repressed emotions, helplessness/voicelessness/ powerlessness, post-traumatic stress, anger and relationship problems.”

Many times the people who have participated in an abortion are not even aware of the countless ways it is affecting their lives.

A range of reactions following abortion can include guilt, anger, discomfort with children, low self-worth, depression, grief, increased alcohol use, inability to communicate, and feeling suicidal.

Many avoid people, places or things that trigger traumatic memories of their abortion experience.

Some experience flashbacks of the abortion and dreams of the unborn child, or intense distress on the anniversary dates of the abortion or the child’s projected due date.

• “Comfort the sorrowful.
Counsel the doubtful.
Instruct the ignorant.
Bury the dead.
Forgive injuries.
Pray for the living and the dead.”
CAREING FOR LOVED ONES AT LIFE’S END

SCRIPTURE

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
1004-1014, 1499-1525, 2276-2283

FROM THE POPES

USCCB RESOURCES
- Maggie’s Story: Living Like Dad
  8-panel brochure. Item #1543.
  Spanish Item #1553.
- Advance Medical Directives: Planning for Your Future
  8-panel brochure. Item #1446.
  Spanish Item #1456.
- Caring for Each Other, Even Unto Death
  8-panel brochure. Item #1042.
  Spanish Item #1052.
- To Live Each Day with Dignity
  www.usccb.org/ToLiveEachDay
- To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide
  15 pp. Item #1172.
- Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services
  Booklet. 40 pages. Item #0970.
- John Paul II: Dying with Dignity
  4 pp. Item #0542.

RELATED SAINTS
- Our Lady of Lourdes: Patron saint of bodily ills. St. John Paul II celebrated the first World Day of the Sick, declaring that it would be celebrated each year on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, one of the titles by which Our Lady is referred to is “Comfort of the afflicted.”
- St. Joseph, Husband of Mary: Patron saint of a happy, holy death. Those who are dying have been entrusted to St. Joseph, “since pious tradition holds that he was assisted by Mary and Jesus in his last agony.”

2016-2017 Respect Life Program | RESOURCE GUIDE
MOVED BY MERCY

REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE:

In "Maggie's Story: Living Like Dad," Maggie reflected upon accompanying her father in his final days as she faced her own terminal illness years later.

- “Watching anyone suffer, especially a loved one, is one of the hardest human experiences. ... Looking back, I’m convinced that walking through those moments with Dad made both of us different and better people. God loved us enough to allow those moments—even and especially moments of suffering—in order to teach us lessons which helped us to grow spiritually and emotionally. Dad left a legacy. He taught me how to live and die with faith and with dignity marked by patience and grace. He taught me that dignity can’t be diminished by pain or loss of personal control. Regardless of our circumstances and whether people acknowledge it, nothing and no one can take away our God-given dignity.”

- “At first it was awkward trying to converse with a father I only knew as ‘Dad,’ the guy who loaned me the car keys in high school and made sure I could balance my checkbook in college. But eventually, the conversation turned to life’s more significant topics. This was new, but refreshing, and it soon became a time that our family cherished. I learned more about my dad in those last five months than I had ever known. At one point he even remarked how great it was to have the time to just talk together.”

DID YOU KNOW?

- The worst suffering of seriously ill people “is often not physical pain, which can be alleviated with competent medical care, but feelings of isolation and hopelessness.”

- “Hospice care focuses on alleviating pain and other symptoms, meeting basic needs, and providing comfort.”

INTERCESSIONS

For those nearing the end of life:
May God strengthen their faith and give them comfort and hope through the gentle compassion of their caregivers;
We pray to the Lord:

For those diagnosed with a terminal illness:
May each hour of their lives be cherished with care that honors God’s gift of life;
We pray to the Lord:

RELATED WORKS OF MERCY

Visit the sick.
Feed the hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty.
Counsel the doubtful.
Instruct the ignorant.
Comfort the sorrowful.
Forgive injuries.
Pray for the living and the dead.

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EVERY SUICIDE IS TRAGIC

SCRIPTURE


CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1004; 2276-2283; 2447-2448

FROM THE POPES


USCCB RESOURCES

• To Live Each Day with Dignity
  www.usccb.org/ToLiveEachDay
• To Live Each Day with Dignity: A Statement on Physician-Assisted Suicide
  Booklet. 15 pp. Item #1172.
• Killing the Pain, Not the Patient: Palliative Care vs. Assisted Suicide
  Available online only. (Listed under “Select Educational Articles” on www.usccb.org/ToLiveEachDay)
• Life Matters: Doctor-Assisted Death by Suicide
  8-panel brochure. Item #1243.
  Spanish Item #1253.
• Assisted Suicide Laws in Oregon and Washington: What Safeguards?
  Fact sheet. Available online only. (Listed under “Fact Sheets” on www.usccb.org/ToLiveEachDay)

USCCB VIDEO RESOURCES


• Luke’s Story: Every Suicide is Tragic
  Luke Maxwell, 19, survived an attempt to take his own life, and reminds us that every life is worth living. You don’t discourage suicide by assisting suicide.
• John’s Story: Beyond Independence
  Born without arms, John Foppe speaks to a way of life beyond independence, namely inter-dependence.
• Maggie’s Story
  Maggie was diagnosed with brain cancer and strongly opposed assisted suicide. Although she passed away peacefully in 2015, her powerful story continues to inspire hope and courage.
• Jeanette’s Story: 15 Years Later
  When Oregon resident, Jeanette Hall, had less than a year to live, she asked her cancer doctor for the pills to commit suicide. Dr. Kenneth Stevens got to know her better, and inspired her to consider treatment. Now, 15 years later, Jeanette says, “It’s great to be alive!”

SAINTS

• St. Francis of Assisi: Patron saint of peace
• St. Jude Thaddeus: Patron saint of impossible causes
• St. John of God: Patron saint of those who are sick

REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE:

• “Barbara had been in remission from her lung cancer. When it recurred, her oncologist wanted her to be given a drug that (statistically) would increase the chance of her being alive in one year
TRUE COMPASSION ALLEVIATES SUFFERING WHILE MAINTAINING SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE WHO SUFFER. IT DOES NOT PUT LETHAL DRUGS IN THEIR HANDS AND ABANDON THEM TO THEIR SUICIDAL IMPULSES.

by 45%. The State of Oregon denied this treatment stating that her prognosis wasn’t good enough to warrant expensive medication to treat her cancer. Yet, in the same letter denying coverage for her medication, the State offered full coverage (100%) for her assisted suicide.”14

• Luke Maxwell, 19, survived an attempt to take his own life. He shares, “When someone is standing...on the edge, ready to jump, what’s the natural human response? It’s to pull them back. With assisted suicide, the message is ‘go ahead, jump.’ ...Every suicide is tragic—whether you’re old or young, healthy or sick, your life is precious where you are and is worth living.”15

• Born without arms, John Foppe speaks to a way of life beyond independence, namely interdependence:

“We live in a world [in which], all too often, our self-worth is bound up in what we can do. ... As a disabled person, I’ve been very tuned into this whole idea of independence: ‘I don’t need anybody’s help’...And yeah, I get that on a certain level. But nobody’s totally ever completely independent. None of us live on an island. We need each other.

...Everybody has something in their life. And some of those conditions make us feel broken or incomplete... But a life also yields a lot of joy, a lot of opportunity to give and to be generous and to love and to be loved. And you only do that by having the courage to step into life.”16

DID YOU KNOW?

• “When a patient says I want to die, it may simply mean I feel useless. When a patient says I don’t want to be a burden, it may really be a question, Am I a burden? When a patient says I’ve lived a long life already, she may really be saying I’m tired. I’m afraid I can’t keep going. And finally, when a patient says I might as well be dead, he may really be saying No one cares about me. Many studies show that assisted suicide requests are almost always for such psychological or social reasons.”17

• The root meaning of the word “compassion” is to ‘suffer with’ another person. True compassion alleviates suffering while maintaining solidarity with those who suffer. It does not put lethal drugs in their hands and abandon them to their suicidal impulses.”18

INTERCESSIONS

For those who struggle to find meaning in their lives: May they find hope and reassurance in Christ through the loving support of friends and family;

We pray to the Lord:

RELATED WORKS OF MERCY

Visit the sick.
Feed the hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty.
Counsel the doubtful.
Comfort the sorrowful.
Pray for the living and the dead.

SEVEN CONSIDERATIONS WHILE NAVIGATING INFERTILITY

**SCRIPTURE**


**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

2374-2379

**COMPENDIUM OF THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

499-501

**FROM THE POPES**


**USCCB RESOURCES**

- Supporting Friends Navigating Infertility
  Suggestions available online only. Access via hyperlink listed at www.usccb.org/respectlife.

- Webpages:
  - Infertility: http://goo.gl/uyH587
  - Reproductive Technology: http://goo.gl/ErZv4b
  - Natural Family Planning: www.usccb.org/nfp
  - For Your Marriage: www.foryourmarriage.org

- *Begotten not Made: A Catholic View of Reproductive Technology*
  Article, available online only. http://goo.gl/9xCN53

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• Reproductive Technology (Evaluation & Treatment of Infertility): Guidelines for Catholic Couples
Available online only. Listed on http://goo.gl/uyH587 under “Resources for Catholic Couples.”

• Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology
Teaching document from the U.S. bishops. 20 pp. Item #1070.

SAINTS

• Sts. Joachim and Anne: “Tradition holds that these saints struggled with infertility and were childless for decades.”

• St. Rita of Cascia: Patron saint of infertility

REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE

“We felt so hopeless at times. Words can’t even explain this experience of loss. Fortunately, our marriage only grew stronger, because we were there for each other and continued to rely on God.”

“As I became more educated on what IVF entails, I realized the wisdom and beauty of the Church’s teaching in upholding my dignity as a woman and in safeguarding my personal health.”

DID YOU KNOW?

• There are medical options for addressing infertility that follow Church teaching and have rates of pregnancy that are statistically significantly higher than in vitro fertilization (IVF).

INTERCESSIONS

For married couples experiencing difficulty conceiving a child:
May they find solace in the compassionate sensitivity of others;
We pray to the Lord:

For those longing for a child of their own:
May they find consolation in God’s tender care, and peace in the assurance of his loving plan;
We pray to the Lord:

RELATED WORKS OF MERCY

Comfort the sorrowful.
Instruct the ignorant.
Counsel the doubtful.
Pray for the living and the dead.
SERENE ATTENTIVENESS TO GOD’S CREATION

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:26, 28 | Genesis 2:15 | Exodus 23:11-12 | Leviticus 25:23

Catechism of the Catholic Church

337-349, 356-358, 2042, 2175-2178, 2415-2418

FROM THE POPES


SAINTS

- St. Francis of Assisi: Patron of animals and ecology
- St. Kateri Tekakwitha: Patron of ecology and the environment
- Blessed Pope Paul VI: Wrote Apostolic Letter Octogesima Adveniens, in which he referred to ecological concern.

REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE

“Drawing extensively from the teaching of his predecessors, the Pope teaches that care for the things of the earth is necessarily bound together with our care of one another, especially the poor. This interdependency extends from the deep respect due every human person to all living beings and to the earth where we make our home.”26

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, President United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

USCCB RESOURCES

- Webpage: Environmental Justice Program www.usccb.org/environment

“In linking respect for human life and dignity with care for the natural world, Pope Francis follows in the footsteps of both Pope Benedict XVI and St. John Paul II, who noted that ‘respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God.’”

Kim Daniels, former spokesperson for the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- “Instead of resolving the problems of the poor and thinking of how the world can be different, some can only propose a reduction in the birth rate. At times, developing countries face forms of international pressure which make economic assistance contingent on certain policies of ‘reproductive health.’”

- “Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.”

- “It is troubling that, when some ecological movements defend the integrity of the environment, rightly demanding that certain limits be imposed on scientific research, they sometimes fail to apply those same principles to human life. There is a tendency to justify transgressing all boundaries when experimentation is carried out on living human embryos. We forget that the inalienable worth of a human being transcends his or her degree of development.”

**INTERCESSIONS**

May God grant us the grace to respect and care for his creation, especially those who are most vulnerable; We pray to the Lord:

May our hearts be filled with tenderness, compassion, and concern for our fellow human beings, and may we be moved to act upon

**RELATED WORKS OF MERCY**

Give alms to the poor
Instruct the ignorant
Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Shelter the homeless
Admonish the sinner
Forgive injuries
Pray for the living and the dead
ACCOMPANYING EXPECTANT MOTHERS CONSIDERING ADOPTION

**SCRIPTURE**


**SAINTS**

- Mary, Mother of God
- St. Joseph, Husband of Mary: Foster father of Jesus, patron saint of unborn children and fathers
- St. Gerard Majella: Patron of expectant mothers
- St. William of Rochester: Patron of adopted children
- St. Clotilde: Patron of parents and adopted children

**FROM THE POPES**


**USCCB RESOURCES**

- *Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption* 8-panel brochure. Item #1646. Spanish Item #1656.
- *An Adoption Love Story* 8-panel brochure. Item #1445. Spanish Item #1455.

**REAL PEOPLE, REAL LIFE**

“I wondered if my heart was big enough to love an adopted child as I would my biological child. There were also so many other variables to consider, one of which was the expense involved... We felt we had no control, but God reminded us again that He is always in control and that we could trust in Him... Andrew* is two years old now, and... we can’t imagine loving a child whom we conceived more than we love Andrew. It is amazing how he fits our personalities so well. More and more every day we are so thankful to his birthmother for her selfless decision.”

“A woman who becomes pregnant unexpectedly may feel as though her world is ending. To women with an unplanned pregnancy, Maya* says, ‘This is survivable. Have hope.’”

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

- “The term used more widely now [than ‘given up for adoption’] is ‘placed for adoption,’ which helps highlight the selfless generosity of birthparents in choosing an adoptive family for their child.”

- “Maya* ... emphasizes the need for continued support of the birth-mother and her family after the placement. Some birth-parents grieve after the placement. It doesn’t mean the decision was wrong, but simply that the experience was life-changing.” Some adoption agencies offer support services after the placement, and there are also support resources that are searchable online.

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*Name changed for privacy.

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**INTERCESSIONS**

For expectant mothers placing their children for adoption:  
May they receive loving support as they walk this journey;  
We pray to the Lord:

For married couples considering adoption:  
May the Holy Spirit guide their discernment, grant them peace, and make possible his holy will;  
We pray to the Lord:

**RELATED WORKS OF MERCY**

Shelter the homeless  
Feed the hungry  
Give drink to the thirsty  
Comfort the sorrowful  
Instruct the ignorant  
Counsel the doubtful  
Pray for the living and the dead

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9 Days for Life is an annual period of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person’s life. Surrounding the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22 (also the anniversary of Roe v. Wade), the overarching intention of the centerpiece novena is the end to abortion. However, the novena also highlights many other facets of respecting each other’s God-given dignity, especially by respecting human life at every stage and in every circumstance.

9 Days for Life is an opportunity to pray for the respect and protection of each person’s life; to gather together in prayer, action, and fellowship with others; and to share your stories online!

WHO IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

Anyone can join individually at www.9daysforlife.com. However, leaders in parishes and various parish ministries, as well as in schools, dioceses, and other organizations, are especially important in raising awareness and in helping others participate in various ways.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PARTICIPATE?

- **PRAY**: The novena’s short prayer guides highlight a different topic each day with five sections: intention, prayers, reflection, suggested actions, and related topical information.

  Subscribe to receive daily text messages or emails; join the Facebook event or follow the USCCB on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram; download the novena in a printable format; or download the free mobile app. All options can be accessed at www.9daysforlife.com.

- **GATHER**: Join together with others in prayer, action, and fellowship. Organize or attend local events sponsored by dioceses, parishes, schools, etc., and/or host private gatherings of friends and family.

  *Ideas for sponsored events*: Special blessing at send-off Mass or Holy Hour for pilgrims attending a march or rally.

WHEN IS IT?

Saturday, January 21, 2017 - Sunday, January 29, 2017
(suggested blessing available online: “Order for the Blessing of Pro-Life Pilgrims before Their Journey”); service project related to one of the topics highlighted; workshop on chastity, Theology of the Body, or sexual ethics.

• Ideas for private gatherings: Potluck dinner with discussion; lunch hour prayer with co-workers; movie night of age-appropriate films addressing life issues.

• SHARE:
  
  • Share how you participated in 9 Days for Life on a particular day, why you are participating, or what being pro-life means to you. Post your filled-in “selfie sign” (available in 9 Days for Life leaders’ toolkit online) or a 5-15 second video using #9DaysforLife and tagging @USCCB on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. We’ll pick from the best to share!
  
  • You can use the special cover photo and/or profile picture for your social media accounts from January 17-29, 2017 (or longer).
  
  • Use the social media kit with pre-written posts to share the novena’s daily intentions, as well as other respect life images and information.

WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS AND ENGAGE PEOPLE?

Leaders are encouraged to promote and incorporate 9 Days for Life into their regular programming and/or to host special, related events during this time. To aid leaders in these efforts, a leaders’ toolkit is available online with promotional, programmatic, and prayer resources. Visit www.9daysforlife.com.

• PROMOTIONAL: Pulpit/bulletin announcements; flyer; graphics (suitable for bulletins, emails, websites, newspapers, and more); 10” x 13” ad; pre-written articles.

• PROGRAMMATIC: Social media toolkit; selfie sign; Coffee & Conversation (discussion guide on additional pro-life articles); youth/young adult ministry guide (adaptable for other ages).

• PRAYER: 9 Days for Life novena; pro-life Rosary prayer intentions; Holy Hour templates; list of options for Mass readings for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children; pro-life intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful; homily notes; Order for the Blessing of Pro-Life Pilgrims.

ARE THESE RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN SPANISH?

Yes! Both the leaders’ resources and the novena itself are available in both English and Spanish.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

You can sign up any time of year at www.9daysforlife.com! Throughout the year, this webpage features email and text message subscription options for monthly messages structured like the daily prayer guides. (By signing up, you’ll automatically receive the novena in January.) There will be more information on 9 Days for Life prominently displayed during the time leading up to it, but the related pages are still accessible throughout the year.
Who:
You and thousands of other Catholics across the country!

What:
During 9 Days for Life, join thousands of Catholics nationwide in 9 days of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person’s life:

1) Pray for the respect and protection of each person and his or her life using short prayer guides with different intentions, reflections, and more each day!

2) Gather together in prayer, action, and fellowship with others.

3) Share your experience online!

When:
Sign up now & participate Saturday, January 21 - Sunday, January 29. (If you're getting started after January 21, it's okay!)

How:
Visit www.9daysforlife.com to download the free mobile app or novena, sign up for daily emails or text messages, or discover many other ways you can participate!
NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH: FOR THOSE ON THE PATH OF ADOPTION

Invoking the intercession of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, we pray that the Lord will bless all who travel upon the path of adoption. And, recalling the mercy which God our Father has shown to us, we also ask that, through our words and actions, they may encounter the outstretched hands of his mercy. May all know the care of the Father, whose love for each person “gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy” (Misericordiae vultus, 6).

FOR MOTHERS WHO PLACE THEIR CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION

SCRIPTURE

Pharaoh then commanded all his people, “Throw into the Nile every boy that is born, but you may let all the girls live.”

Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and the woman conceived and bore a son. Seeing what a fine child he was, she hid him for three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she took a papyrus basket, daubed it with bitumen and pitch, and putting the child in it, placed it among the reeds on the bank of the Nile. His sister stationed herself at a distance to find out what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe at the Nile, while her attendants walked along the bank of the Nile. Noticing the basket among the reeds, she sent her handmaid to fetch it. On opening it, she looked, and there was a baby boy crying! She was moved with pity for him...She named him Moses; for she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

Exodus 1:22 – 2:6, 10

SILENT REFLECTION
PRAYER
Heavenly Father,
Bless all expectant mothers who are placing their children for adoption and who may also be young and afraid.
They love their children so much that they are willing to place them with a loving family.
Bless, too, all the women who already have shown the sacrificial nature of a mother’s love in making adoption plans for their children.
Give them all your courage and your peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION TO ST. JOSEPH
St. Joseph,
Though you must have been troubled by Mary’s news, you trusted in God’s promises.
Elizabeth, too, though she was thought to be barren, trusted in the promises of God, and she bore a son, John, who would herald the arrival of the Messiah.
Hear the prayers of all mothers who place their children for adoption and intercede for them before your adopted Son and Savior.
St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

FOR FATHERS WHO PLACE THEIR CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION

SCRIPTURE
For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.
John 3:16

Silent Reflection

FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION

SCRIPTURE
This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.
John 15:12-17

Silent Reflection
PRAYER
Lord Jesus,
in word and sacrament, you make known the depth
of your love for each person.
Never let us forget the tender compassion and
mercy which you have shown and continue to
show to us.
Instill in our hearts deep love for those who suffer,
and help us reflect the face of the Father’s mercy.
May the family members of each child to be placed
for adoption lovingly support his or her mother as
she chooses love and life.
And may these family members themselves
find continued support in the kindness and
encouragement of others.
Give to all wisdom and understanding,
and may we be instruments of your grace. Amen.

PETITION TO ST. JOSEPH
Blessed St. Joseph,
At the angel’s direction,
you supported Mary in her “yes”
to bear the Son of God.
Trusting in the Lord, you accompanied her on that
journey, offering her your protection
and steadfast love.
Pray that the family members of each child
placed for adoption may lovingly support
the child’s mother, and also find support
in the open hearts of each other and of friends.
Please intercede for these family members,
that they may be channels of God’s tender love
and also that they may themselves encounter the
outstretched hands of your merciful love.
St. Joseph, Mainstay of Families, pray for us.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

FOR CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION

SCRIPTURE
Then children were brought to him that he might lay
his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked
them, but Jesus said, “Let the children come to
me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of
heaven belongs to such as these.”
Matthew 19:13-14

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER
Lord Jesus,
You saw in the innocence of children
the attributes which make us worthy of heaven—
trust, joy, humility, obedience and faithfulness.
Bless all children who are awaiting adoption.
They seek love—may they find it in loving parents.
They seek stability—may they find a home
rooted in faith.
They seek acceptance—may their gifts be
recognized and nurtured.
And may they always know your steadfast love for
them and the true joy of loving you.

PETITION TO ST. JOSEPH
Blessed St. Joseph,
You welcomed the Christ Child into your home,
provided for his daily needs, and helped him
to grow in wisdom, age, and grace.
Hear the prayers of all children
who are awaiting a loving home,
and intercede for them
before your adopted Son and Savior,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
St. Joseph, Guardian and Protector, pray for us.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
FOR MARRIED COUPLES
PURSUING ADOPTION

SCRIPTURE
For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba, Father!” The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:14-17

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER
Heavenly Father,
You are the Author of life and love.
You have called us by name and made us your sons and your daughters, and you know your plan for our lives.
If it be your will, bless those who are pursuing adoption, give them generous hearts, and send them a child to love and with whom to share your great love for us. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION TO ST. JOSEPH
St. Joseph,
You know the yearning in the hearts of married couples pursuing adoption.
They have so much love to give and wish to share that love with a child.
As you took Mary and Jesus into your home at Nazareth, may the grace of parenthood also be granted for such as these.
We beg your intercession before the Father.
St. Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, pray for us.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

John 14:16-21

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER
Father,
We are all your adopted children, not by flesh or by desire, but through the power of the Incarnation of your most beloved Son, Jesus Christ.
Bless those children who have been adopted into new families, that they may experience the love that you have shown us which surpasses even the love of a mother for her child.
In the difficult transitions and hardships that might beset them in their struggle for belonging, give every adopted child the grace to embrace their new family and trust in your paternal care for them, which lasts forever.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION TO ST. JOSEPH
Blessed Joseph,
Christ Jesus humbly accepted you as his earthly father and was obedient to you and the Blessed Virgin Mary.
In turn, you raised Jesus as your own son, protected him from harm, provided for his daily needs and loved him with all you heart.
Pray for all adopted children— infants, children, and teens.
Hear the desires deep in their hearts for acceptance and love, and keep them safe from all anxiety.

And when they pray, intercede for them before the Father.


CONCLUDING PRAYERS
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

FOR ADOPTIVE MOTHERS

SCRIPTURE
Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.”

John 19:25-27

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER
All loving and merciful Father, by your abiding presence and abundant grace you know our every need.

Bless all women who have adopted a child.

They have so valued your gift of life that they have welcomed a child into their home, and opened their hearts and their lives.

Help them to know your loving Providence, and guide them in their journey of motherhood.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION TO ST. JOSEPH
St. Joseph, husband of the Virgin Mary, you witnessed first-hand the joy of her motherhood.

Be attentive to the needs of these women who long to welcome a child through adoption.

Give encouragement to all adoptive mothers, that, with the support of their husbands, they might know the joy that comes from a lifetime of serving as mother, nurturer, and friend.

Intercede for them before the Father, we ask you.

St. Joseph, spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

FOR ADOPTIVE FATHERS

SCRIPTURE
Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ...When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Matthew 1: 18-21, 24

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER
Fatherhood has its origins in God, and so we pray to you, Father Almighty, for those men who have adopted a child.

Give them a mind receptive to your guidance, a patient voice, and a loving heart.

May they know the joy of following your will and reflecting your constant and steady love.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION TO ST. JOSEPH
St. Joseph, adoptive father of Jesus, you, too, welcomed a child into your home because you were obedient to the plan of God.

Give encouragement to all adoptive fathers, that with the support of their wives, they might know the joy that comes from serving as guardian, father, and protector.

St. Joseph, patron of fathers, pray for us.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
FOR FAMILY MEMBERS
WELCOMING CHILDREN THROUGH ADOPTION

SCRIPTURE
For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named...that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:14-15, 17-19

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYER
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
You are one God, living in a relationship of love.

When Christ became Man, you shared that divine love with the human race, forever wedding earth to heaven.

Send your blessings upon all who nurture children who have been adopted.

Give them generous and understanding hearts.

Give us all a spirit of understanding and welcome so that all peoples of every nation, race, and tongue may live together peacefully as members of your family.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PETITION TO ST. JOSEPH
Blessed Joseph,
You took Mary and Jesus into your home. You followed the prescripts of the Law, presented Jesus in the Temple, taught him skills at the plane and the lathe; and, daily, you shared traditions which were built on the covenants he came to fulfill.

Hear the prayers of the siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and entire families of children who have been adopted.

May they be a source of loving welcome and a fount of faith.

Through Christ our Lord.

St. Joseph, descendant of David, pray for us.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be


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