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.’”

**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.

*Name changed for privacy.

**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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