



Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth Parish Spiritual Adoption Campaign

"A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world." Pope Saint John Paul"

Thank you for considering bringing the Spiritual Adoption Campaign to your parishioners!

What is Spiritual Adoption?

- After the Supreme Court decision in 1973, which legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy, Venerable Fulton Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of unborn babies who are in danger of abortion.
- He recommended that each person pray for a particular unborn child for nine months, although that child would remain unknown to them.
- *"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby's name], the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."* (prayer of Venerable Fulton Sheen)

How can we do this at my parish? It's simple!

- Begin on the second Sat/Sun of December with a pulpit announcement after each mass. Because Our Lady's Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8th, we chose these dates so that the campaign will be under Her patronage and in honor of the nine months she developed in the womb of St. Ann.
- Invite families to participate by spiritually adopting an unborn child and praying for that child each day for nine months.
- Each family will be given a prayer card to encourage them to pray together.
- Weekly, an update about the baby's development in the womb will be placed in the church bulletin. These weekly summaries have already been compiled and will be emailed so they can be easily copied and pasted into the bulletin.
- At the end of the nine months, on the first weekend of September the parish will collect baby items that will be donated to an approved pregnancy center! This can be as simple or elaborate as you wish: a collection of items before and after the masses that weekend or hosting a celebratory baby shower in the parish hall.

Why should we do this?

- We know that prayer is powerful and can make a difference in the life of an unborn child and his/her parents.
- Currently, every Catholic school in the Diocese of Fort Worth has a spiritual adoption program in place for their 7/8th grade students.
- What about families that do not attend Catholic schools? This campaign at the parish level will allow them to also be involved in this effort.
- On a very simple level, this campaign is a great way to evangelize and educate parishioners on the humanity of the unborn child, thus providing a means for deeper understanding of the Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life.
- It really is simple to do, and most of the work has already been done!
- There will be no cost to the parish.

What do we need to move forward with the Spiritual Adoption Campaign?

- Pastoral approval.
- Bulletin Editors cooperation with weekly bulletin announcements.
- An individual's assistance with pulpit announcements, encouragement of members of the Parish Respect Life group, and planning/implementing final collection of donated items.