

---

# Spiritual Adoption



*“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to protect the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted.”*

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen



Sponsored by the  
Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Respect Life Office

# Discussion Topics

- ❖ What is the Spiritual Adoption Program?
- ❖ Who may participate?
- ❖ How can my school, parish, or family participate in the Spiritual Adoption Program?
- ❖ Materials for my Spiritual Adoption Program



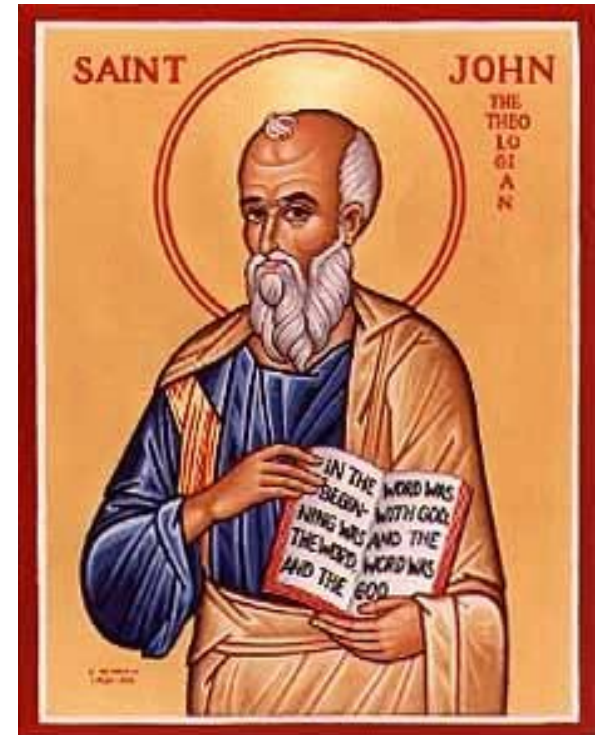
# What is the Spiritual Adoption program?

- ❖ Participants pledge to pray for nine months for an unborn baby
  - Done in a parish or school setting
  - Age appropriate materials
- ❖ At the end of the nine months of prayer hold a baby shower to gather items for agencies that provide support for mothers and babies
- ❖ Objectives of the Spiritual Adoption Program
  1. Encourage prayer for parents who are expecting a child, that they will respond to God's grace and welcome their child into life.
  2. Educate adults and children about the development of the preborn child.
  3. Provide mothers in need with a 'baby shower' of donated baby gifts, or simply celebrate with a 'birthday party' at the conclusion of the program.



# Who may participate?

- ❖ Church members
- ❖ Students
- ❖ Prayer groups
- ❖ Confirmation classes
- ❖ And anyone who is concerned about the unborn, and who is willing to pray *"that they might have life and have it to the full."* (John 10:10)



# How Can our School, Parish, or Family Participate?

## ❖ Basics

- At the beginning of the program a pledge card or prayer card is completed with your name and the name of your adopted child.
- The prayer is recited at regular intervals throughout the nine months .
- A regular update on the development of the unborn child is provided in the form of a poster, a card, a bulletin announcement, etc.
- At the end of the nine months a baby shower is held and the gifts are donated.

❖ Prayer and pledge cards, progress update cards and posters, program completion materials, etc. may be downloaded from the Diocese Respect Life Spiritual Adoption Website.

❖ Additional items may be purchased to customize our program.



# Materials for our Spiritual Adoption Program

## ❖ Promotional

- Brochure
- Flyer--Bulletin board/meeting invitation
- Flyer--Mass bulletin insert
- Announcements--Mass bulletin and pulpit
- Letter--Parish priests or school principals
- Letter--Parents or teachers
- Presentation (Powerpoint)



*Spiritual Adoption*  
A Program for Schools, Parishes, and Families

*"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to protect the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted."*  
Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Participants in the Spiritual Adoption Program pledge to pray for nine months for an unborn baby. While this child will remain unknown to his or her "spiritual parent", God knows who the child is.

The program can be done in your parish, school, home...or all of them. Materials are age appropriate and best of all...they are free!

**You can...**

- Share in prayer for parents who are expecting a child.
- Learn and educate others about the development of the preborn.
- Provide mothers in need with a "baby shower" of donated baby gifts.

At the end of the nine months of prayer a baby shower is held to gather items for local agencies that provide a home or support for pregnant women.

  
The Spiritual Adoption Program is sponsored by the Diocese of Kansas City in Spirit.  
Request an Office  
[www.rcjpcd@missouri.org](http://www.rcjpcd@missouri.org)



**We Have A** *Spiritual Adoption* Program!

*"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to protect the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted."*  
Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Participants in our Spiritual Adoption Program will pledge to pray for nine months for the safety of an unborn baby. While this child may remain unknown to us, God knows who the child is.

At the end of the nine months of prayer we will have a baby shower to gather items for a local agency that provides support for pregnant women.

**Now you can...**

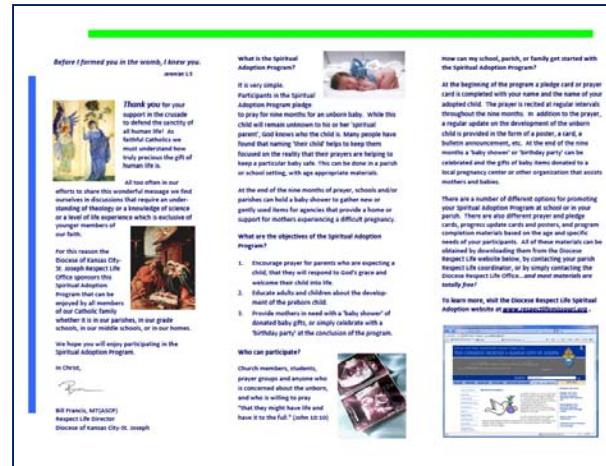
- Share with us in prayer for parents who are expecting a child.
- Learn and educate others about the development of the preborn.
- Provide mothers in need with a donation of baby gifts.

Materials are all age appropriate and best of all...they are free!


To learn more, either go to [www.rcjpcd@missouri.org](http://www.rcjpcd@missouri.org) or contact a member of the Parish Respect Life Ministry.

  
The Spiritual Adoption Program is sponsored by the Diocese of Kansas City in Spirit.  
Request an Office

*Thank You for helping to defend the sanctity of all human life!*




*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,*  
isaiah 44:5

 **Thank you for your support in the crusade to defend the sanctity of all human life!** As faithful Catholics we must understand how truly precious the gift of human life is.

**Let us offer in our efforts to share this wonderful message we first ourselves in decisions that require an understanding of theology or a knowledge of science or a level of life experience which is exclusive of younger members of our faith.**

For this reason the Diocese of Kansas City, St. Joseph Respect Life Office sponsors the Spiritual Adoption Program that can be enjoyed by all members of our Catholic family whether it is in our parishes, in our grade schools, in our middle schools, or in our homes.

**We hope you will enjoy participating in the Spiritual Adoption Program.**

*In Christ,*  
  
Bill Francis, MFLAOP  
Respect Life Director  
Diocese of Kansas City in Spirit

**What is the Spiritual Adoption Program?**

It is very simple. Participants in the Spiritual Adoption Program pledge to pray for nine months for an unborn baby. While this child will remain unknown to his or her "spiritual parent", God knows who the child is. Many people have found that naming "their child" helps to keep them focused on the reality that their prayers are helping to keep a particular baby safe. This can be done in a parish or school setting, with age appropriate materials.

At the end of the nine months of prayer, schools and/or parishes can hold a baby shower to gather new or gently used items for agencies that provide a home or support for mothers experiencing a difficult pregnancy.

**What are the objectives of the Spiritual Adoption Program?**

1. Encourage prayer for parents who are expecting a child, that they will request a don't give and welcome their child into life.
2. Educate adults and children about the development of the preborn child.
3. Provide mothers in need with a "baby shower" of donated baby gifts, or simply celebrate with a "birthday party" at the conclusion of the program.

**Who can participate?**


Church members, students, prayer groups and anyone who is concerned about the unborn, and who is willing to pray "that they might have life and have it to the full" (John 16:33).

**How can my school, parish, or family get started with the Spiritual Adoption Program?**

At the beginning of the program a pledge card or prayer card is completed with your name and the name of your adopted child. The prayer is recited at regular intervals throughout the nine months. In addition to the prayer, a regular update on the development of the unborn child is provided in the form of a poster, a card, a bulletin announcement, etc. At the end of the nine months a "baby shower" or "birthday party" can be celebrated and the gifts of baby items donated to a local pregnancy center or other organization that assists mothers and babies.

There are a number of different options for sponsoring your Spiritual Adoption Program at school or in your parish. There are also different prayer and pledge cards, program update cards and posters, and program completion materials based on the age and specific needs of your participants. All of these materials can be obtained by downloading them from the Diocese Respect Life website below, by contacting your parish Respect Life coordinator, or by simply contacting the Diocese Respect Life Office...and most materials are **completely free!**

To learn more, visit the Diocese Respect Life Spiritual Adoption website at [www.rcjpcd@missouri.org](http://www.rcjpcd@missouri.org)





# Materials for our Spiritual Adoption Program

## ❖ Prayer and Pledge Cards

- Pledge cards—KC-StJ Respect Life
- Prayer cards—Holy Family
- Prayer cards—Patroness of the Unborn
- Prayer cards—KC-StJ Respect Life

*Spiritual Adoption*

*"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to protect the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted."*

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen




I, \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

promise to spiritually adopt and to pray daily for

\_\_\_\_\_ Baby's Name

until \_\_\_\_\_  
Birth Date (if months from today)




*Spiritual Adoption*

**"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much.**

**I beg you to protect the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted."**

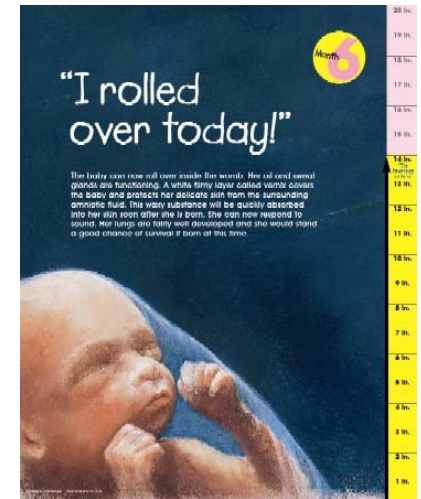
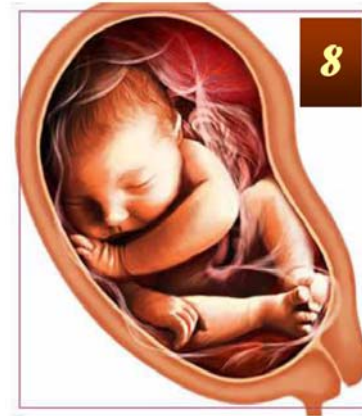
Bishop Fulton J. Sheen



# Materials for our Spiritual Adoption Program

## ❖ Monthly Updates

- Cards--Annunciation
- Cards--Illustrations
- Cards--Photos
- Posters--Illustrations
- Posters--Photos
- Posters--Little One Sweet
- Labels--KC-StJ Respect Life (for your own cards, bookmarks, etc)
- Announcements--Mass bulletin



### Conception:

At the moment of conception, a unique human person was created--me! Remarkably, even though just a single cell, I already have the entire blueprint that will define my eye and hair color, adult height, and aptitude for math, art, and sports. All that is required now is nourishment, a safe home in which to live and grow, and a loving family.

*"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."* Jeremiah 1:5



# Materials for our Spiritual Adoption Program

- ❖ Program Completion
  - Birthday party announcements
  - Baby shower announcements
  - Certificates of program completion
  - Spiritual Adoption program participant feedback form
- ❖ *We will have a diocese-wide contest during Respect Life Month to design each of the documents above!*
- ❖ Diocese Respect Life Office keeps a list of local pregnancy resources centers if we need assistance or guidance selecting a recipient.





# Diocese Respect Life Office Spiritual Adoption Website



[www.respectlifemissouri.org](http://www.respectlifemissouri.org)

“Respect Life → Programs & Events → Spiritual Adoption”



# Closing Prayer for Life

O Mary,  
Bright dawn of the new world,  
Mother of the living,  
To you do we entrust the cause of life:  
Look down, O Mother,  
Upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born,  
Of the poor whose lives are made more difficult,  
Of men and women who are victims of brutal violence,  
Of the elderly and the sick  
Killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.  
Grant that all who believe in your Son  
May proclaim the Gospel of life  
With honesty and love to the people of our time.  
Obtain for them the grace to accept that gospel as a gift ever new,  
The joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives  
And the courage to bear witness to it resolutely,  
In order to build, together with all people of good will,  
The civilization of truth and love,  
To the praise and glory of God,  
The Creator and lover of life.



Pope John Paul II, St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, March 25, 1995 ; The Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord.

