

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

What is the Spiritual Adoption Program?

It is very simple, anyone can participate. Many parishes and schools in the Diocese of Covington have participated in the Spiritual Adoption Program. One model is for students in grades 1 thru 5, the younger students pledge to pray for the health of the unborn baby. In the model for grades 6 thru 8, participants are asked to pray for a baby who is in danger of abortion. While this child will remain unknown to his or her 'spiritual partner' many people have found that naming 'their child' helps to keep them focused on the reality that their prayers are helping an unborn baby. The model for an entire parish to participate is a combination of both programs.

The Purpose of the Spiritual Adoption Program is threefold:

1. Encourage schools and other communities to pray for unborn babies.
2. Educate adults and children about the development of the pre-born child.
3. Provide mothers in need with assistance, at a 'baby shower' of donated baby gifts, at the conclusion of the program. In some schools a crib was bought with monetary gifts and the children filled a crib with gifts for expectant mothers in need.

How does the program work and how can my school get started?

At the beginning of the program a brief announcement is made and information is given to the parish/students. Prayer cards (copies of the prayers or a file with prayers can be downloaded and copied) can be distributed to all involved in the program. A "Little Ones" poster is also available and helpful for promotion of the program. These posters follow the development of a baby for nine months. Posters for display are one poster for each month of development, or on poster displaying all the months of development. (Posters are appropriate for all to see.)

At the end of the program a 'baby shower' or "birthday party" is held and the baby items donated are then given to a local pregnancy center. This is a great project for Catholic Confirmation preparation classes as it involves prayer, education and community service.

Who benefits from the Spiritual Adoption Program?

Everyone! While it is not always possible to see the particular effects of prayer, we know through Scripture that God wants us to pray, and we know by faith that He answers all prayers. The educational aspect of the program is beneficial to people of all ages, including children. Parishes and schools are encouraged to display the very gentle and appealing full color posters that both depict and describe in words the baby's development each month. There is no mention of abortion on the posters..

<p>Call Faye Roch at the Diocese of Covington Pro-life Office (859-392-1500 x1545) if you would like to receive a folder with all of the needed copy ready materials and "Little Ones" Posters to begin a Spiritual Adoption Program at your school.</p>
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