

INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

In a world in which waiting lists to adopt a child are long and many pregnant women believe abortion is their only option, adoption may seem like an obvious solution. While adoption is a loving, generous way for a child to be welcomed into a family, it can also be a complex reality for those involved—including parents placing their child for adoption, couples waiting to be matched with a child, children who are waiting to be or have already been adopted, and many others.

For example, a pregnant woman in crisis often sees adoption as worse than either raising or aborting her unexpected baby, and “studies suggest that in pitting adoption against abortion, adoption will be the hands-down loser.”¹ Placing a child for adoption tends to be “perceived as a kind of double death” by the mother—what she perceives as a “death” of self by carrying the baby to term and the “death” of her child through what she perceives as abandonment.²

A pregnant woman contemplating abortion generally needs to first believe that she can carry her baby to term before she is able to consider the different options of whether to raise or place her child for

adoption. So, it is important for those who want to support her in choosing life to first remind her of “her own goodness and capacity for love”³ and to encourage her that she *can* carry her baby to term.

Helpful tips for supporting a woman who is considering adoption can be found at respectlife.org/mothers-considering-adoption.

ACT (choose one)

- Sign up to pray the *St. Joseph Adoption Novena* from March 11–19 for all whose life stories include adoption (respectlife.org/adoption-novena).
- Reflect more deeply on the uniqueness of each person’s adoption experience. Read the stories of a mother who placed her child for adoption (respectlife.org/mothers-considering-adoption) and a married couple who adopted their son (respectlife.org/adoption-love-story).
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month’s intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn more about the complex reality of adoption in the video, *Maternity is Forever: Adoption* by the Sisters of Life (bit.ly/maternity-forever). Discover why the decision to place a child for adoption should be the result of a personal discernment, initiated by the mother herself.

1. Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley, OFM Cap. “Homily, Opening Mass, 2013 National Prayer Vigil for Life.”

2. Ibid.

3. Sisters of Life, *Maternity is Forever: Adoption* (<https://intoliferies.com/watch/9-maternity-is-forever-adoption/>).

