

## SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

(Announcement following Holy Communion)

Today we are going to ask you to do something very simple, yet very powerful. We are asking you to promise to pray for a baby who might not otherwise make it to birth. This was the idea of Archbishop Fulton Sheen and is called Spiritual Adoption.

Many parents experience the sad loss of a child before birth, due to miscarriage or even to abortion. We are asking you to **pray a child to birth** – asking God for health of the baby, and to give the parents of these children the grace they need to face whatever difficult circumstances in which they may find themselves.

Posters at the entrances of the church and bulletin announcements will keep you updated on “your” baby’s progress. Nine months from now we will celebrate the births of our spiritually adopted babies by collecting baby items which will then be given to mothers in need. So Spiritual Adoption has 3 components: Prayer (most important), Education and Concrete Help for Mothers in Need.

In the pews there are pledge cards and pencils (hold up card). Please take a minute to pledge to pray for a child; it’s so simple. **It is suggested that you name the child**, which will remind you that, although you may never meet the child in this life, you **truly are praying for a specific child, perhaps known only to God, who needs your prayers**. You can adopt a child individually, or as a family. Won’t you please “spiritually adopt” one of these little ones and share the love for life that God have given you?

So, now we’ll give you a minute to fill out a pledge card, tear off the right side and then pass it to the center aisle. We have some young friends who will be collecting them, then placing your pledges of prayer at the foot of the statue of our Blessed Mother.

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**(The priest may now say:** “I am adopting twins, a boy *and* a girl. May the Lord bless you and keep you for your kindness” or some other encouraging words)

Cue music –Choir will sing *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* --John Rutter.