

# ADOPTION

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*To adopt a child is a great work of love. When it is done, much is given, but much is also received. It is a true exchange of gifts. – St. John Paul II*

Adoption is a blessed way to create or expand a family, the Church says. Jesus encouraged adoption. He said that whomever received ‘these little ones,’ received him. Let’s not forget, too, that he was raised by a foster father who loved him as a son.

‘Adopting children, regarding and treating them as one’s own children, means recognising that the relationship between parents and children is not measured only by genetic standards,’ St. John Paul II said. ‘The resulting relationship is so intimate and enduring that it is in no way inferior to one based on a biological connection,’ he continued.

Often, when men and women facing unexpected pregnancies decide that they are unable to take care of the child they are convinced or persuaded that abortion is the only option. Unfortunately, they are often ill-informed

of the damaging physical, emotional, and psychological side effects of abortion. Adoption, on the other hand, is a positive choice for mothers and babies. In addition adoption is great gift to husbands and wives with medical challenges, such as infertility, who feel called to raise children and are encouraged by the Church to ‘give expression to their generosity’ through adoption (CCC, 2379).

The Church most notably supports adoption as a life-giving alternative to abortion. As such, adoption is a gift for everyone involved. The child entering a new family is given a new chance to live, and the adoptive mother and father – who have hoped for a family – can raise a new family member.

