

# Getting Started on Your Parish Spiritual Adoption Program

Purpose: This program is designed to have the entire parish or school community pray for babies in danger of abortion.

## Here's how to begin in the parish:

1. Decide what month the program will begin and end. Some possible suggestions:  
  
Begin in January and end in October during Respect Life Month.  
  
Begin in August and end in May for Mothers' Day.  
  
Begin in October during Respect Life Month and end in July.
2. Two weeks before the program is to begin place an initial announcement in the parish bulletin inviting parishioners to participate. See the next page for an example.
3. One week before the program is to begin include information regarding this program in the verbal announcements made by the priest or lector. Announce that the program will begin next week and further details are available in the bulletin. Have the written announcement from the previous week's bulletin printed in this week's bulletin as well.
4. Pledge cards (which can be printed on pink and blue paper) should be made available to parishioners in the bulletin or at designated places in the church or narthex. Parishioners should be directed to the cards.
5. The week the program begins parishioners should place their pledge cards in a special basket or container and placed in front of the Blessed Mother Shrine or some other appropriate place or they can be brought up during the Offertory and placed near the altar. Additional pledge cards and writing instruments should be available at the end of each pew to parishioners who may forget to bring their pledge cards.
6. Two weeks after the program begins place a thank you note in the bulletin for those who are participating and to let the parish know how many individuals and families are participating. Also pledge cards and a basket should be available for those who pledge later.
7. Every month place the appropriate Little One development poster prominent so everyone can see how his her baby is progressing. Also, place an announcement in parish bulletin a reminder parishioners to continue praying for their spiritually adopted child along with information on development of the unborn child.
8. At the conclusion of the program there should be some type of parish celebration. A social hour (or baby shower) after Mass could be planned for those who have been participating for the past nine months. Parishioners might also be invited to donate new baby items (or make a monetary gift) that would then be delivered to a maternity home or pregnancy center that provided alternatives to abortion.