

Dear Padre,

Does the Church promote adoption as a response to infertility? If so, why?

The Church indeed promotes adoption, but not solely as a response to infertility. Church teaching presents adoption as an alternative way that a couple might direct their generosity and desire to be life-giving through children. While recognizing the suffering of infertility, the Church also sees the great need of children throughout the world who, for one reason or another, haven't been able to live with their biological parents.

The call to adopt and care for children in need, however, is addressed to all believers who are able to help. The theological foundation for reaching out to adopt children is linked to our being brothers and sisters in Christ, and that we are called to be stewards of the lives of one another. In some instances, people feel called to care for needy children of the world by adopting them and bringing them into a new family to develop and grow.

In other situations, perhaps Christians could show extraordinary love by "adopting" a child or a family of children by supporting them in their own country through assistance to relatives who could not otherwise look after the child. This is obviously not like raising a child in your own home, but think of what it might do for a child in his own home country. A key principle that should underlie the care of orphans is "what is best for the child."

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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The goal we must set ourselves...is that no mother be in a position to leave her child. But we must also ensure that in the face of any event, even tragic, that may detach a child from his or her parents, there are structures and processes...in which childhood is always protected and cared for.

ADDRESS TO HOSPITAL OF THE INNOCENTS INSTITUTE,
MAY 24, 2019

Calendar

Monday
FEBRUARY 8
Weekday
Gn 1:1–19
Mk 6:53–56

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 9
Weekday
Gn 1:20–2:4a
Mk 7:1–13

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 10
St. Scholastica, Virgin
Gn 2:4b–9, 15–17
Mk 7:14–23

Thursday
FEBRUARY 11
Weekday
Gn 2:18–25
Mk 7:24–30

Friday
FEBRUARY 12
Weekday
Gn 3:1–8
Mk 7:31–37

Saturday
FEBRUARY 13
Weekday
Gn 3:9–24
Mk 8:1–10

Sunday
FEBRUARY 14
Sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Lv 13:1–2, 44–46
1 Cor 10:31–11:1
Mk 1:40–45

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Jb 7:1–4, 6–7

1 Cor 9:16–19, 22–23

Mk 1:29–39

Grin and Bear It

This harsh bit of advice is more military than religious. However, it does carry some truth. There are times when there is no way to avoid hardship, so all we can do is find some way of dealing with it. This is the situation in today's reading from Job. He experiences life as burdensome. To make matters worse, life is too short to be able to get beyond the difficulty. So what does he do? What might most of us do in similar situations? Complain.

There is really nothing wrong with complaining. The problem is to whom and for how long. A large number of the psalms are complaints or, to use the theological term, *laments*. To complain to God can be a profound prayer, for it admits our human inability to fix everything. And, it presumes that God can and just might fix the problem. The psalm response continues this train of thought with a prayer of confidence that God will fix it. The Gospel reading then provides examples of how Jesus did just that.

These are not merely stories of past events. Rather, they trace a profound yet difficult-to-accept religious belief: when we are overwhelmed by hardship, we should turn to God and place our need in God's care, believing that God wants what is best for us. Perhaps the rest is out of our hands, but we must believe that we are in God's hands and, therefore, safe.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



After sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door.
MARK 1:32–33

FOR *Reflection*

- * Hardship can test our trust in God. Might this be the case with you?
- * As a disciple of Jesus, pray for the gift of trust.