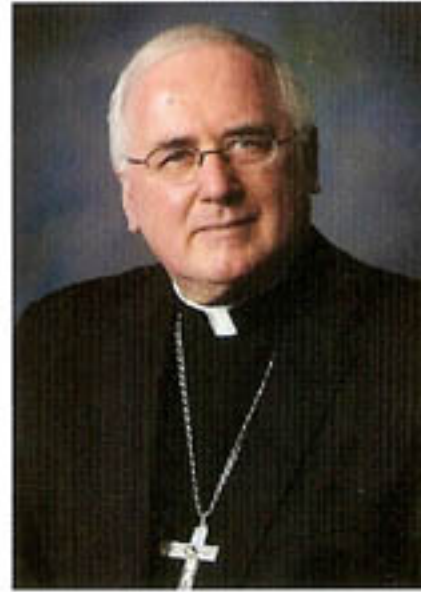


Adoption – A Loving Choice

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In a speech in April of 2008 Pope Benedict said: "Even in the most difficult circumstances human freedom is capable of extraordinary acts of sacrifice and solidarity to welcome the life of a new human being."



There are two ways we experience parenthood: by being biological parents or through adoption. Some married couples only know the joy of parenthood because a mother has made the difficult but courageous choice to give her child up for adoption to a loving family. Adoption is a brave, loving, choice for women facing overwhelming difficulties in raising their children. It is a good, ethical and self-less decision that we as a society and as Catholic Christians need to affirm in the mothers who make this choice.

The decision to give a child the gift of life instead of opting for a more expedient, so called 'solution' of abortion is fundamentally, an act of profound self-less love. As Catholic Christians, we need to encourage more women and men who find themselves in overwhelming situations to embrace the choice to let their child be adopted.

We must pray that hearts in trouble be open to the call to embrace the gift of life. Christians are called to work towards making adoption an accessible, valued way of allowing mothers and fathers to respect and cherish the unique gift of life God has granted them. The decision to give a child up for adoption, as well as the choice to adopt a child in order to provide a loving, faith-filled family, are acts of courage and self-less love.

Pope John Paul II in an address to adoptive families organized by the Missionaries of Charity in September of 2000 said: "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."

Let us all pray for the wisdom to see the gift that adoption is for parents and children and the courage to take action to make this decision the obvious choice.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

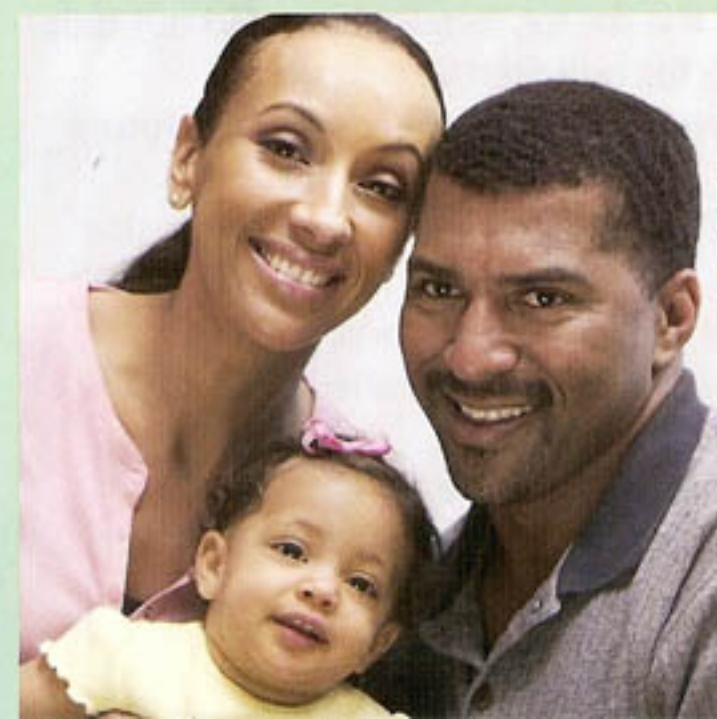
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrence Prendergast".

Terrence Prendergast, S.J.
Archbishop of Ottawa

Published by **Action Life Ottawa**, 309-376 Churchill Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1Z 5C3
2009 www.actionlife.org Tel.: 613-789-4494 Fax: 613-798-4496



Adoption,
gift of life, gift of love.




Today, many women facing an unintended pregnancy believe that they have only two options: to have an abortion or to raise the baby. Yet, forty to fifty years ago, the majority of women in such a situation would place their child for adoption. The three main reasons for the decline of adoption are abortion, the social acceptance of single parenting and the myths surrounding adoption. Increasingly, the message conveyed about adoption in popular culture says that it is better to abort the child than to place the child for adoption.

ABORTION

- With abortion, a baby dies.
- With abortion, women and society are harmed.
- Knowing that she chose to have her baby's life ended can be a devastating burden for the mother to carry for the rest of her life. Some women who have had abortions speak of the pain and grief they have carried for many years since their abortions.
- Abortion isn't just a matter of controlling your own body. In a pregnancy, there are two lives to consider: the mother's and the unborn child's.
- Acceptance of abortion has led to a denial of the value of human life.
- Abortion is the killing of an innocent human being.

ADOPTION

- With adoption, a baby lives.
- Adoption is an act of love.
- The birth mother may decide that the circumstances in her life are such that she does not have the means to raise her child but that her child will be better cared for by adoptive parents.
- The birth mother makes a loving decision concerning the future of her child.
- Adoption builds families and brings great joy to couples unable to conceive.
- While there will be grief over the loss of her child, the birth mother can find peace in the knowledge that she has given the great gift of life, that her child lives.
- The birthmother may help choose adoptive parents.
- Ultimately, the decision to keep the child or place the child for adoption lies with the birth mother.



Adoption allows the child to live. Placing a child for adoption is truly an act of love.

MYTH: Adopting parents cannot love a child as much as the birth parents.

The ability to love, to be a good parent has nothing to do with being able to give birth. Love is not a by-product of biology. Experience and research have shown that adoptive parents can love and care for a child as fully as birth parents. Adopted children are loved and valued members of their families.

MYTH: Adopted children grow up to have psychological problems.

Most adopted children are as well adjusted as children raised by their birth parents. Many of you know individuals who were adopted and are loving and contributing members of society.

Where there is life, there is hope.

"I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants might live."

Dt.30:19

"Life is the primary good we have received from God, the foundation of all the others. Guaranteeing the right to life - for everyone and in the same way for everyone - is a duty upon which the future of humanity depends."

Pope Benedict XVI
Vatican City, February 24, 2007.