

October Respect Life Month — What to Do When a Friend Is Considering Abortion

More women and girls consider abortion than we may realize. They are our relatives and friends, our babysitters, teammates, people who work with us or for us, married or unmarried. Even if someone identifies as being pro-life, the shock of an unexpected pregnancy, the devastation of a difficult prenatal diagnosis, shame, pressures, or fears may influence her to consider abortion.

If someone shared with you she was pregnant and hadn't ruled out having an abortion, would you know how to respond? The answer can be summed up in an old adage: We have two ears and one mouth, and should use them in that proportion.

First listening to your friend will help build trust and facilitate openness. Eventually, when she knows you truly care about her and she trusts you, you can share the truth in love. You can share facts about abortion, her own intrinsic worth, and the practical help and support available so she can choose life for herself and her baby.

A truly loving approach reflects St. Paul's description of love in his first letter to the Corinthians: "If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. ... Love is patient, love is kind" (1 Cor. 13:1,4).

When a woman is facing a difficult pregnancy, the reaction of the first person she tells tends to set the tone for her decision-making. How do we respond to our friend in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby?

Consider the four steps of the L.O.V.E. Approach: Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower .

L Listen and Learn

First, prioritize listening over speaking. You don't have to worry about whether you may say something "wrong," and you don't need to have all the answers. Start by listening to her story.

Ask her about her feelings, thoughts, values, beliefs, and wants. Do not interrupt, except to ask her to expound, when appropriate. For example: How did you feel when you first found out? Did you feel abandoned when he said that? What are your feelings now? What did you think about that? What do you think your parents will say or do? What value does that have for you? How does this relate to your religious beliefs? How important is that for you? In your heart of hearts, what do you really want to do?

Ask open-ended questions and statements like, "Tell me more..."

Interpret and confirm what you think you are hearing: "Did I hear you say..."

Pay close attention to her body language. She may show from gestures of discomfort or a lack of eye contact that

what she is saying does not actually reflect her innermost feelings, values, or wants.

Listen for clues to her needs so you can later bring up helpful ways to address those needs. Listen for her strengths and resources so you can later reflect them back to her, building up her confidence and courage.

O Open Options

When her story is fully shared, it is your turn to provide factual information, always in a loving and caring way. You might share about the reality of abortion and the wounds that typically result. You might share experiences about having a baby, adoption, marriage, and how such things might apply in her situation. It's most helpful to keep the focus on her.

At the same time, avoid using the framework of adoption versus abortion. Research indicates that a woman with an unexpected, unwanted pregnancy often views all the possible outcomes of her pregnancy negatively: keeping her child, abortion, and adoption (which she tends to see as the worst of three "evils"). Research also "suggests that in pitting adoption against abortion, adoption will be the hands-down loser." It's better to first focus on encouraging her that she can carry this baby to term.

V Vision and Value

Awaken a vision in her for a healthier life (a vision she may never have had, or that may have dimmed). Help her value herself differently. She is a special creation, worthy of love. She is made in the image of God; as a woman, her maternity is a gift. Jesus loves her and even died for her.

Encourage her. Help her set and work towards goals that extend beyond her due date to help her see life beyond her pregnancy. Reassure her there is always hope and she is not alone. She can make positive, life-giving choices. She can do it.

E Extend and Empower

Provide practical help and support. Her local pregnancy help center can offer consultation, lists of community resources, and ultrasound services. Consider keeping such lists of resources in your car, purse, or wallet. Help her plan next steps. What would help her? A call from you? How can you contact her?

Pray with her and for her and her baby. The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is a way to bring Christ's love at a crucial life-saving and life-defining moment. We are created to walk with and support one another; we don't need to fear reaching out in love. Help your friend experience the strength of God's message that resounds throughout time: "Do not fear: I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10).

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The bulletin is posted online each weekend at:
www.sjamescatholicchurch.com

Bulletin Submissions: call the rectory or email to: fr.mike-morin@cdolinc.net by noon on Friday.

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 9:00 am.
Confessions: Saturdays 4:30-5:15 / Sundays 8:15-8:45 / By appointment
Weekday Masses: Monday thru Friday 7:00 am

St. James Catholic Church

October 22, 2017

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mon. Oct 23	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Tue. Oct 24	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Wed. Oct 25	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Thu. Oct 26	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Fri. Oct 27	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Sat. Oct 28	Saints Simon and Jude

Mass Intentions

Saturday	Oct 21	5:30 pm	†Craig Casey
Sunday	Oct 22	9:00 am	People of the Parish
Monday	Oct 23	7:00 am	†Marlene Benes
Tuesday	Oct 24	7:00 am	Leroy Konecky
Wednesday	Oct 25	7:00 am	†Loretta Peterson
Thursday	Oct 26	7:00 am	Ryan Murphy
Friday	Oct 27		NO SCHEDULED MASS
Saturday	Oct 28	5:30 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	Oct 29	9:00 am	†Rose Gruenes

Your prayers are asked for Fr. Morin as he travels to Anchorage this coming weekend for Retrouvaille, a ministry for those in troubled marriages. Consequently, Mass are canceled for this Friday, October 27, and Monday, October 30. Please welcome Fr. Pat Murphy, who will be covering the weekend Masses.

Minister Assignments

	Sat. Oct 28	Sun. Oct 29	Tues. Oct 31	Wed. Nov 1
Acolytes	Jeff Hageman	Ray Casey	Ron Morrissey	Bob Sabata
Readers	Bob Hagemann	Ed Cherovsky	Connie Eckley	Craig Quick
Servers	Jake Whitney Matt Determan	Cameron Quick Miles Hannan	Ian Dunn Connor Johnson	Garrison Knuth Peter Chohon

Oct 14-15 Collection

Adults	\$2,413.00
Loose	59.00
Second	104.00
Total:	\$2,576.00

Monthly Obligations

St. Wenceslaus School	\$ 3,258.33
Bishop Neumann	9,479.00
Total Parish Expenses:	\$ 12,737.33

November—Prayer for the Deceased

In your current set of tithing envelopes you will see an envelope like the one bottom left for All Souls Day. We continue the custom in which parishioners are invited to write as many names of deceased relatives and friends on the envelope, which will then be placed in a prominent place in the sanctuary during the month of November, the time we set aside in a special way to pray for the dead. They will serve as a sacramental—a holy reminder—to pray for those who have died.

Contribute as much or as little as you like in the envelope, and the total amount collected will be divided by the usual offering for a Mass intention and that number of Masses will be offered for those loved ones and all the dead. We will offer as many Masses as we can during the month of November, and then throughout the rest of the year.

This annual custom of ours is different than the specific intention for Masses that are offered each day and are listed in the upper left hand of this page of the bulletin each week. To have a Mass offered for a particular intention you may use the “Mass Intention” envelopes that are on the counter in the vestibule.

The custom of offering Masses for the repose of the deceased or any good purpose is ancient in the Church. It is the most efficacious prayer to be offered because we join our offering to the offering of Christ on the Cross to our Heavenly Father.

Today is World Mission Sunday – a day that leads us to the heart of our Christian faith – leads us to mission! Your generosity on World Mission Sunday supports the work of priests, religious and lay leaders in the Missions who share our faith with those most in need. This year we can even “chat” with our chief missionary, Pope Francis, and learn more about his missions and missionaries. Learn more at ChatWithThePope.org. Chat – Pray – Give this World Mission Sunday.

Bishop’s Appeal for Vocations—many thanks to those who supported our Bishop’s Appeal for Vocations. The goal set for our parish was \$4,130 but we reached \$6,181. Your generosity will help provide the necessary formation for our seminarians in their service to the people of the diocese, your future pastor. Please remember them in your prayers.

All-Night Adoration November 4-5

Consider taking an hour. Signup is in the vestibule.



Second Collection for 10/28-29

The second collection at next weekend Masses will go to the Knights of Columbus Annual Collection Drive for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (a.k.a. "The Tootsie Roll Drive"). Please be as generous as possible as these funds are used to support deserving groups around Nebraska. As a way of saying thanks for your generosity, Tootsie Rolls will be handed out as you leave Church.

LDCCW October Pro-Life Diaper Drive

One of the non-truths in the abortion debate is the notion that pro-life advocates care about the child in the womb and do nothing for pregnant women or for the children once born. The Diaper Drive is a great opportunity to support the women that choose life rather than abortion. Let’s all work together to make this Pro-Life Diaper Drive a great success.

Dwight Assumption Parish Fall Soup Dinner and Craft/Vendor Fair—October 22, from 10:30am-1:30pm. Craft/Vendor Fair 9:00am-1:30pm. Mass is celebrated at 10:00am.

Bishop Neumann High School—in Wahoo is looking for an evening shift janitor to assist in helping to keep our school clean. Timeliness, attention to details, and a strong work ethic are important qualifications. This is either a full time position with the shift running Monday-Friday 2:30pm-11pm or a half-time position with the shift running Monday-Friday 3pm-7pm. The pay will be \$15-\$20 per hour based on experience. Please contact Fr. Morin or Fr. Zimmer at 402-443-4151 or you can email Fr. Zimmer at fr.matthew-zimmer@cdolinc.net.

There are just 2 short weeks now until our **37th Annual Pancake Breakfast, Raffle, and Silent Auction**. The sign up list for workers is starting to fill up. If you received an email invite and have not yet signed up, please take a moment to do so. This is a great parish family event. Everyone's help is needed to make it a success again this year. If you don't have email, please call Ray Casey (402-904-0096), Arlene Janecek (402-917-4540), or Melanie Climer-Wilson (402-250-3437) to get signed up. Parishioner envelopes that had not yet been picked up were mailed out this past Wednesday. Take a moment to look at the beautiful quilt that is on display. It is the 1st Prize for this year’s raffle. Parishioners are starting to drop off Silent Auction items. Tables have been set up on which to place your item(s).

Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House

October 27 - 29, 2017. Retreat for Men or Women directed by Fr. Mark Cyza. “Total Consecration: A Pilgrimage to Jesus with Mary” You can register at www.goodcounselretreat.com and receive immediate confirmation or call Good Counsel Retreat House at 402-786-2705 to register now.

