

BIRTH MOTHERS ARE BRAVE

When I was nine, my family made a trip to a 40 Days For Life prayer vigil. I stood on the sidewalk in front of an abortion facility praying and holding a sign that proudly stated, "Birth Mothers Are Brave!" I was very proud to be part of this movement. Even prouder, because I am adopted. Being an adopted child with a connection to my biological mother who chose life has me very engrained in the fight. I know that the hardest decision in her life was also the bravest. I am so lucky because I have life!

We can all take an active role in building a culture of life whether it is through prayer, education, or volunteering. We need to instruct more women that they have options and can choose life.

For the last few years, I have volunteered at Coalition Life, an organization that helps promote life and assist mothers who choose life. I have, many times, contributed to office work such as stuffing envelopes for the end of year appeal that are sent out to donors, and worked at the yearly benefit dinners.

A tremendous help is the simplicity of prayer. Saint Gemma Galgani is patron saint of life. Saint Catherine of Siena is the patron saint of peace, and there are so many more that have devotions and prayers for life.

Students should be thoroughly encouraged to join youth groups or other pro-life organizations, like pregnancy resource centers. Resource centers help educate women of their choices for life, including adoption. Experiencing firsthand these lifesaving organizations is a great way to participate in the fight. Sometimes, a group hasn't formed in this particular area. You could start something in your community or talk to a pastor or principal of a school to try and start one up. Others might look to you with inspiration of your initiative and do the same!

No matter how you decide to take up your part, the first step is showing kindness before anger, understanding before judgement, and helping and loving others as much as we can.

By Sydney Gutleber