

A Note from Marianna Uribe (Marianna is a postulant for the Sisters of Life, a religious order of women dedicated to the promotion of the dignity of every human person). Marianna is a member of our parish, the daughter of Francisco Uribe and Cheryl Wampler. Her sister, Eva, is studying at Yale University.

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, we completed our “Co-Worker Training” (a training for those who volunteer with the Sisters in various capacities, and especially those working directly with vulnerable pregnant women in our “Visitation Mission”), and the Family Life Conference. First, the Co-Worker Training was wonderful. The day consisted of several talks and conferences on various topics; including an overview of the mission of the Sisters, understanding the heart of a vulnerable pregnant woman (recognizing and addressing her fears and needs), how to be a good listener (by focusing on the person you’re listening to and responding in a way that helps her feel understood—that sounds obvious, but it’s more important than you’d think), how to approach and speak about adoption, the importance of prayer, a testimony by a current volunteer, etc. Mother Agnes spoke about adoption and I found several of her points very thought-provoking and not necessarily intuitive. Many people misunderstand the dynamics of adoption and thus approach it in a way that can be harmful to a woman considering adoption. We often speak of a woman “giving up” her child for adoption, as if she is also “giving up” her motherhood. This is inaccurate and unrealistic, as a woman who becomes pregnant is henceforth *always* a mother to that child, regardless of what happens afterward. A woman who *places* her child with an adoptive family exercises her maternity in making this choice—she chooses to place her child in an environment and situation that she cannot at that time provide (most often with a family or married parents when she believes that is the best environment for her child to grow up in). Thus, it is a tremendous sacrifice for a mother to make and she *must* make it in total freedom. No one can or should attempt to make it for her, or even influence her in one way or another, because a mother who on her own comes to the decision to place her child up for adoption will be able to be more at peace with this decision even in difficult times and moments of doubt. Mother Agnes said that very few women actually choose to place their children for adoption because it demands great maturity and such selfless love.

Your Sister in Christ,
Mariana