Springs in the Desert accompanies those struggling with infertility and raises awareness to pastors, diocesan offices, and healthcare professionals. Visit our website for more tools and resources for ministering more effectively to hurting couples.

Springs IN THE DESERT
CATHOLIC INFERTILITY MINISTRY

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Mother's Day

AND THE VOCATION OF ALL WOMEN

Many pastors are unaware of the dread that women who are struggling with infertility associate with attending Mass on Mother's Day. These women do not begrudge mothers their special day, but when this recognition becomes part of the liturgical celebration, it can be very isolating for those who are having trouble conceiving, are past childbearing years, or who have suffered pregnancy loss.

But the Church, our Mother, is not required to celebrate Mother's Day as the secular world does. Instead, the Church has an opportunity to celebrate the life-giving capacity of all women!

Here are three simple ways your parish can honor mothers while also recognizing the unique gifts and spiritual fruitfulness of those women burdened by infertility and loss, and the witness their marriages bear in the Church.

Bulletin Announcement

A simple bulletin announcement acknowledging the difficulty of Mother's Day goes a long way toward caring for those who are struggling with the cross of infertility. Here is a sample announcement:

"For Catholics struggling with infertility and pregnancy loss, Mother's Day can be hard—but there is hope and healing in community! Springs in the Desert is a Catholic ministry that accompanies these women and couples by offering them a place of respite and solidarity where they can know God's love for them and discover His unique call to fruitfulness. For virtual and in-person events, encouraging blog posts, podcast episodes, and more, visit www.springsinthedesert.org. It is our honor to walk with you!"

Prayer of the Faithful

For couples who are struggling with infertility, that they may know God's loving presence and trust in His plan for fruitfulness in their marriages...

For those who have lost a child at any age, that they may rest in the Lord's loving embrace and be wrapped in the mantle of Our Blessed Mother...

For the women who are loving spiritual mothers to us: our aunts, godmothers, teachers, mentors, and all who impact our lives positively...

Final Blessing

The "Mother's Day blessing" is often an acute source of pain and anxiety for the women present who are struggling with infertility or loss. If you choose to include this blessing at the conclusion of the liturgy, consider asking all women to stand, acknowledging mothers first, and then all women who live out different aspects of motherhood each day.

Another possibility is to impart the special blessing at the end of Mass when the entire congregation is already standing. This acknowledges the mothers present without drawing attention to those who remain seated. Either option can be an opportunity to honor the good of motherhood, acknowledge the struggle with infertility and loss, and affirm the spiritual motherhood to which all women are called.