

# Dear Padre,

## *Should adopted children know who their biological parents are?*

Arguments can be made in favor of and against adopted children knowing their biological origins. It appears more and more that adoption agencies encourage knowledge of biological parents over closed adoptions, where this information is not known by the child or the adopting parents. There are many issues here that are packed emotionally, such as why a person was placed for adoption, fear by adopting parents that this new information could compromise their relationship with their child, perhaps fear on the part of biological parents that they will be asked to be involved in a relationship against their wishes.

An argument to be made in favor of disclosure about one's biological parents has to do with one's health. Today we realize that challenges to our health come not just from bacteria and viruses that invade our system from outside ourselves, but also from within, that is, from genetic predispositions to heart disease, diabetes, and other disorders that could compromise our well-being. This information becomes more critical when persons are of an age to marry and to bear their own children. They might want to know as much information as possible to act responsibly in bearing and raising children. ●

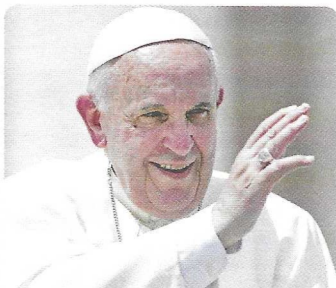


From *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices: 50 Questions from the Pews*, © 2011 Liguori Publications

### **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
November 28 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 4:2-6 Mt 8:5-11	November 29 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24	November 30 <i>St. Andrew, Apostle</i> Rom 10:9-18 Mt 4:18-22	December 1 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27	December 2 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31	December 3 <i>St. Francis Xavier, Priest</i> Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8	December 4 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Is 11:1-10 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12



### **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

**Today it is our task to keep watch: to overcome the temptation of thinking that life means accumulating....It is up to us to unmask the deception that we are happy when we have many things...and to believe that prayer and charity...are the greatest of treasures.**

**HOMILY, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT,  
DECEMBER 1, 2019**