



Devotional for Day 24, Friday, March 17

Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Portland

Intention:

For All Women Who Are Pregnant

Scripture:

I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

— *John 10:10*

Reflection:

Jesus desires fullness of life for each one of us. He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. But when life is filled with trials and crosses, we can begin to see it more as a burden than a blessing. Our hearts go out to all those who are feeling the heavy burdens of life. We are especially mindful of those women who find themselves distressed by a pregnancy they did not expect. May our Lord Jesus come alongside them and help them understand that even during trials, life is a blessing.

While many women rejoice to learn they are pregnant, others are crushed by the news. In every case, we want to lift these women up to the Lord. He alone understands the workings of the heart and the unique circumstances surrounding each pregnancy.

Children are a beautiful gift from God. They bring life and light and joy into the world. God himself chose to come into the world as a child, and he did so by way of a mother who said “yes” to God and “yes” to life. May all mothers find their strength, courage, and joy in the Lord.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are the author of life and all that is good. Thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, and the promise of eternal life in Him. We humbly ask You to bless and protect all women carrying new life in their wombs. Fill them with a motherly love beyond measure. Be close to those facing an unexpected pregnancy. Give them strength and courage to overcome every trial. Give all mothers grace and tenderness to embrace their children as precious gifts. Through Your Holy Spirit, grant us all fullness of life in you. We make this prayer in the name of Your beloved Son, Jesus. Amen.