



# St. Joseph Adoption Ministry

A LICENSED CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY FOR THE MARCH 20, 2018 HEARING RE FAITH BASED ADOPTION PROVIDERS:

SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: SB 401

GOOD MORNING ESTEEMED MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS SENATE:

My name is Sister Dolora May, CSJ. I am the Director of St. Joseph Adoption Ministry in Kansas City Kansas, ( a 501 C- 3 organization) which opened December 28, 2001. To date, we have helped over 250 children from various backgrounds and situations of crisis to find the love and care they so deserve.

This organization, which I represent to you today, is sponsored and funded by the Congregation of St. Joseph. It is one of the many varied and important ways by which the Congregation serves our world.

This ministry was founded and continues in existence with an intentional purpose – that is to augment the beauty of family life in such a way that reflects and respects the integral role of the core members.

It is our belief, based on years of experience in serving a male/female couple, who are in a married and committed relationship, and whose expressed goal is to share their love and home with a child; that the blessing of God rests upon their union. We further believe, that children thus brought into such a family, are destined to be a vibrant participant of their parents vision and goodness.

As for me personally, I realize that this endeavor has been a “WALK IN FAITH”. There is no reason that I would be speaking with you today, were it not so. While I share this concept with the families we are privileged to serve, I know that they too experience the journey in a very real, though perhaps different way than I do. Thus, as is noted on our brochure, it is our goal to “ walk” with them, to help them along the way to a successful placement. Why do we do what we do? Again, it is to speak to the integrity and the goodness and the benefits of family life!

The Christian Scriptures say that “Faith is the essence of things unseen”, the “confident assurance of things hoped for” (HEBREWS 11:1).

Today, we invite you to be part of the journey. You not only have a unique role to play, but a very special privilege is yours as well, unlike that of any other organization.

**YOU ARE CALLED TO PROTECT FAMILY LIFE!** You have a work to accomplish and a call to answer responsibly. You are to be those people, who while functioning as a legislative body, ensure that the values thus articulated by faith based organizations, on behalf of the children and parents they serve, are protected.

Please consider your role as a graced opportunity to sustain these organizations entrusted to your care.

**THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU TODAY:** May the blessings of peace be with you!