



St. Teresa of Jesus
October 15, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13-16). How precious in God’s sight is the life of every child from the moment of conception!

On our Archdiocese’s first annual Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day, I wish to reach out to all parents who have lost a little one, whether by miscarriage, stillbirth or soon after birth.

No one can know the grief that weighs on you, mothers and fathers, as you mourn the passing of a child. Your little one is dear to the Lord (Mt 18:19), and in His mercy Jesus shares the pain of your broken hearts.

We entrust your deceased infants, whether born or unborn, to the Father’s infinite love and mercy, confident that He cherishes your little one more than you can ever imagine, and that He comforts you in your suffering, holding you in His heavenly embrace.

It is fitting to remember and commemorate the life of a child you have lost. If you have not yet buried your child’s remains, I encourage you to contact Gardens of Gethsemani, which will arrange for their burial interment or for a memorial in his or her memory.

I also invite you to visit <https://rcav.net/pregnancy-loss> or your local chapter of Elizabeth Ministry, named to recall the Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth. This compassionate ministry is prepared to help you with encouragement, hope and healing in your loss, whether recent or many years ago.

With my blessing and the assurance of my prayers for all your loved ones, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

+J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver