



Nationwide Invitation to Prayer & Action
Announcement

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President, U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
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Every abortion involves the death of a child and harm to the mother. Now with easier access to abortion pills, the abortion rate is tragically climbing, along with increased health risks.

The Food and Drug Administration has enabled a nationwide mail-order abortion industry by allowing abortion pills to be prescribed in telehealth appointments and sold both at neighborhood pharmacies and online, circumventing state laws that protect life in the womb. This leaves women vulnerable to suffering an abortion alone at home, without any medical supervision. It also sets up additional opportunities for exploitation by violent partners or human traffickers.

From now through the end of October, *Respect Life Month*, the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of abortion pills. In addition to invoking the intercession of *St. Joseph, Defender of Life* ([English/en español](#)), participants can learn about the danger of abortion pills, and can send messages to pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies that are involved. Sign up at [Respect Life Prayer and Action](#).

Thank you for your prayers and actions to protect innocent children and their vulnerable mothers from the evil of abortion. *St. Joseph, Defender of Life*, pray for us!

A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life — especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

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