

Chairman's Statement on 53rd Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*

USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

January 13, 2026

January 22 marks the anniversary of the tragic U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, that legalized abortion nationwide and led to the loss of over 65 million children and immeasurable harm to their parents and family members. This solemn day is commemorated each year with the observance of the [Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children](#) for prayer, penance, and our personal recommitment to the cause of life.

We continue to give thanks to God for the opportunity to defend human life in law through the overturn of *Roe* in 2022. Since that time, we have seen several pro-life victories. Most recently, at the national level, Congress acted heroically last year in largely defunding Planned Parenthood of federal taxpayer dollars. Meanwhile the Administration has reversed several of its predecessor's pro-abortion policies.

Despite these successes, human life is still gravely threatened by legalized abortion as it continues to be aggressively promoted at the state and federal level. Many challenges remain, including pro-abortion ballot initiatives, the increased use and availability of abortion pills, and the need to protect the Hyde Amendment to keep taxpayer funded abortion out of national health care bills. We must continue to support pregnant and parenting mothers in need and offer spiritual and emotional help to all who have participated in abortion. Our united prayers, sacrifices, and efforts to protect human life and heal the wounds inflicted by abortion remain as important as ever.

As our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV has said, "God's mercy calls us to protect every life, especially those society overlooks—the child yet to be born and the elderly nearing their journey's end—because each bears Christ's face."

May we see the face of Christ in every single person, in every pregnant mother, and every child in the womb. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to ensure that every human life may be protected in law and welcomed in love, and that abortion may be unthinkable.

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