

Respect Life Month Statement

October 2026



Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

With great confidence, we enter into October as *Respect Life Month* with the theme of *Mary, Mother of Life*. Our Blessed Mother is our model for upholding the sanctity of all human life in every stage and circumstance. We entrust all our efforts to protect mothers and babies to her motherly care, which we greatly need at this time.

Today, 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 the abortion pill to be prescribed in telehealth appointments, sold both at neighborhood pharmacies and online, and often shipped in the mail, circumventing state laws that protect life in the womb. This means that more women, many of whom have been misinformed about the nature and risks of the abortion pill, will have an abortion alone at home, without any medical supervision. It also sets up additional opportunities for exploitation by violent partners or human traffickers. These affronts to human dignity demand our response.

In August, the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities began inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of the abortion pill. In addition to invoking the intercession of *St. Joseph, Defender of Life* ([English](#) | [en español](#)),

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participants can learn about the danger of the abortion pill and can send messages to pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies that are involved. I thank the many thousands of Catholics across the country who have embraced the [nationwide invitation to prayer and action on abortion pills](#), and I ask that we continue our prayers and advocacy throughout the month of October. Please join us at [Respect Life Prayer and Action](#).

Knowing that every abortion involves the death of a child and harm to the mother, we must also continue our efforts to assist mothers facing challenging pregnancies through [Walking with Moms in Need](#), and to help women and men seeking forgiveness and healing after participation in a past abortion through [Project Rachel Ministry](#).

May *Mary, Mother of Life*, and *Saint Joseph, Defender of Life*, pray for us!

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