

# Justice, Peace and Life

January 2025



Every January, we're invited to pray the **9 Days for Life Novena** developed by the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Visit the web site at [www.respectlife.org/9-days-daily-prayers](http://www.respectlife.org/9-days-daily-prayers)

from **January 16 to 24** to find compelling prayers, reflections and suggested actions for building a culture of life. Or sign up at this [link](#) to get daily reminders via text or e-mail.

Join in praying for these and other intentions to uphold the dignity of life:

*May the tragic practice of abortion end.*

*May each person suffering from participation in abortion find forgiveness, hope, and healing in Christ.*

*May every pregnant mother receive compassionate care and support as she nurtures the life in her womb.*

*May every pregnant mother choosing adoption receive grace and support in embracing this loving option.*

*May all who support or participate in abortion experience a conversion of heart to seek and receive the Lord's boundless mercy.*

*May every father of a preborn child lovingly support the mother of his child in welcoming new life.*

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis officially opened the Jubilee Year. With its theme "Pilgrims of Hope", this **special year** includes jubilee commemorations for many different groups within society, all of which need hope:

Jubilees for Prisoners, for Migrants, and for Poor People  
for the Sick, and for People with Disabilities  
for Families, for Teens, and for Grandparents  
for Governments, for Lawyers, and for Athletes,  
for Workers, for Entrepreneurs, and for Musical Bands

This month, one of the commemorations is for "all involved in the work of communications and media: that their work may serve the cause of truth and justice and help us overcome division." **Let us pray for people in that line of work, that they would strive to report stories accurately and thoroughly, and see their work as a service to society.**

\*\*\*\*\*

As part of the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has also asked specifically for an end to the death penalty. Please take a few minutes and join the **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops** in **thanking President Biden** for commuting the sentences of 37 men on federal death row. Call or email the White House at **202-456-1111** or [www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/write-or-call/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/write-or-call/)

*How can practical education, advocacy, and prayer to transform the U.S. criminal legal system help to mark this special Jubilee year?*

The anti-death penalty group Catholic Mobilizing Network is hosting a special Jubilee Year webinar **Thursday January 16 at 2pm** to explore this question. Click [here](#) to register.

## Join the Catholic Action Network

As a new session starts in the New York State legislature in Albany, now is a great time to sign up for legislative alerts through the Catholic Action Network. The CAN is run by the New York State Catholic Conference. You'll receive news of current issues in Albany that call for our voices, and easy ways to contact your New York State elected officials. Put your faith into action to help build a more just and loving New York State.



New York State  
**Catholic Conference**

Click here to [join](#) thousands of other Catholics advocating for “laws and policies that pursue social justice, respect for life and the common good.” [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org)



## End Hunger! Nourish Our Future!

Nearly 1 in 10 people around the world goes to bed hungry at night, and 1 in 5 children in the U.S. live face food insecurity— but world hunger is solvable.

You can be part of a national effort to end child hunger in the U.S. and around the world! Bread for the World is a longstanding, national, ecumenical, anti-hunger advocacy organization that encourages Christians to speak out to their elected officials.

Every year, Bread for the Word organizes faith communities to participate in the Offering of Letters, during which congregants write individual letters to their members of Congress. **Nourish Our Future** is Bread for the World's new advocacy campaign, focused on ending child hunger everywhere. The issues they'll be advocating on include WIC (a nutritional program for Women, Infants, and Children), the Child Tax Credit, global nutrition programs, and campus anti-hunger measures.



Photo by CRS



They're officially launching Nourish Our Future on **Tuesday, February 4 at 7pm**, with a goal of having 1,000 people participate online in the [online event](#). *Let's make sure there's a strong delegation from New York!* At the launch, Bread for the World staff will explain in more detail the issues they'll be working on and the importance of those policies to children and families.

Please sign up to learn about these life-saving policies and how you can organize an Offering of Letters at your parish. Be part of the chorus of Christians around the country insisting that we don't want any of God's children to go hungry.

Sign up at this [link](#). And learn more about Bread for the World at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

### Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

**Monroe:** Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 ext. 6202; Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org;

**Chemung/Schuylers/Tioga:** Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; Kathy.Dubel@dor.org

**Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne:** Robert Vona 315-789-2235 ext. 112; Robert.Vona@dor.org

**Tompkins:** Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org

**Diocesan Coordinator of Life Issues:** Elizabeth Johnston 585-328-3228 ext. 1278; Elizabeth.Johnston@dor.org