

Justice, Peace and Life

October 2026

"In her selfless service to Elizabeth, the Blessed Mother perfectly models how we are called to accompany expectant mothers as they prepare to welcome new life into the world." -from "Mary, Mother of Life"
Respect Life Month 2026 [statement](#) from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



Nellie Edwards, "Mother of Life"

Mary Mother of Life, Pray for Respect for Every Life

During Respect Life Month, please join Catholics around the country in praying that every life be respected, from the first moment of conception to the moment of death. The Respect Life Novena runs from October 22 through October 30 (but of course, you can pray it anytime!). The intentions include:

May every person's life be protected and cared for from conception to natural death.

May pregnant and parenting moms find life-affirming help for themselves and their children through the Christian community.

May all people with disabilities be treated with respect and their lives protected.

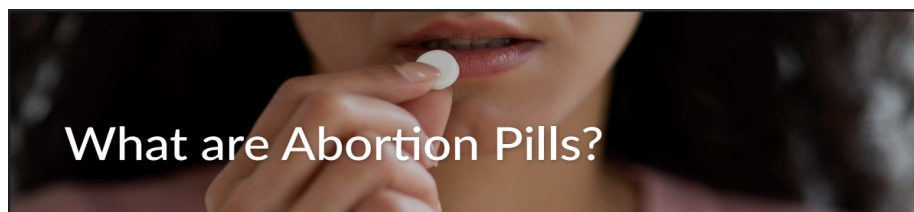
May all who are ill or nearing death receive care that meets all their needs and upholds the gift of their lives.

**respect life
month
novena**



OCTOBER 22-30
respectlife.org

You can find the novena at [this link](#).



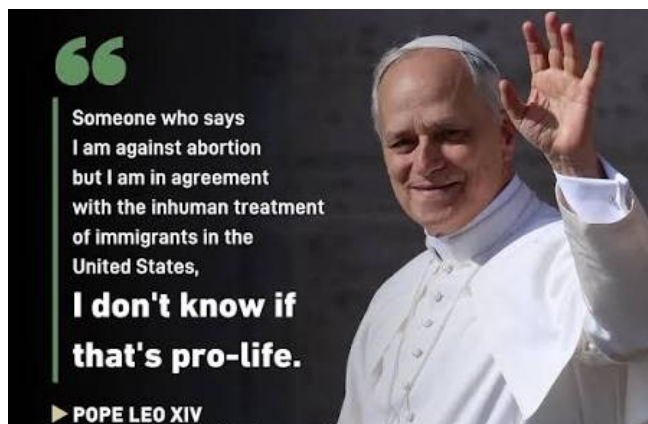
What are Abortion Pills?

Most abortions are no longer done by surgery in clinics, but by taking pills. The rate of women taking abortion pills is increasing (and is at hundreds of thousands per year). The first pill (mifepristone) kills preborn babies by cutting them off from blood and oxygen. A second pill (misoprostol) then helps push the babies' remains out. While these drugs can have other uses, they are a deadly combination for pre-born children.

In addition to ending the lives of babies, abortion pills are dangerous for the mothers who take them. They have been found to cause four times as many complications as surgical abortions. A 2025 study found that 10 percent of women who take abortion pills need to get urgent treatment for problems afterward like infections, hemorrhages, or remains of the baby not having come out. But the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has taken shortcuts over the years and removed guardrails around the pills. This allows the abortion industry to push the abortion pill more and more. Taken from [www.usccb.org/resources/What Are Abortion Pills.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/What-Are-Abortion-Pills.pdf)

Learn more about abortion pills and find resources to share with your parish at this [link](#)

Advocate with national pharmacy chains to stop selling abortion pills at this [link](#)



A Way Forward for Immigrants

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is asking Catholics to advocate for a re-introduced bill that would bring security to the lives of millions of our sisters and brothers.

"At the start of the 119th Congress, the American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 1589) was reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill has passed in the House on a bipartisan basis on multiple occasions during previous congresses and has long enjoyed support from a wide cross-section of the American public. Up to this point, it has not passed in *both* the House and Senate, but it continues to have bipartisan support.

The bill would essentially provide a fair, just, and long-term legal solution for Dreamers (people brought to the United States as children who lack legal status but know only this country as their home) and those who have been lawfully relying on temporary protected status (TPS) or deferred enforced departure (DED) for several years. Under current law, there is no direct pathway to permanent legal status for these populations, including for people who have protection under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). In many cases, even those with U.S.-citizen spouses and children do not have access to permanent status. This bill would fix that.

For both groups, eligibility to apply for permanent legal status under H.R. 1589 would be subject to several limitations (such as, for Dreamers, being physically present in the United States since at least January 1, 2021), while also requiring applicants to pay fees, present certain identifying information, and submit to background checks/security vetting.

Learn more and write to your representatives at this [link](#).

PRAY AND WORK FOR AN END TO EXECUTIONS IN THE U.S

O God, you envision for us a justice that emulates your mercy and healing. But too often we choose retribution over repair and relationship. Guide us in our work to abolish the death penalty. Through your grace, may we discard this violent practice which falls short of your perfect vision, and create in its place a justice that honors the human dignity of all.

The **Catholic Mobilizing Network** is the national Catholic anti-death penalty organization working in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Join CMN in speaking out to save the lives of God's children on death row scheduled to be executed this month.

Go to this link to advocate:

<https://catholicmobilizing.org/our-work/death-penalty/executions/>

And join the novena to end the death penalty here:

<https://catholicmobilizing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-A-Novena-to-End-the-Death-Penalty.pdf>



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