



END THE DEATH PENALTY • ADVANCE JUSTICE • BEGIN HEALING

Easter 2026

Bishop
Title and Diocese
Address
City, State, Zip

Your Eminence / Excellency,

May the God who affirms life in the Resurrection of Christ be with you this joyful Easter season. **We find ourselves again invited to reflect on the Church's unwavering pro-life commitment, including its work to end capital punishment.** Last year, executions in the United States spiked to a recent high of 47, surpassing totals unseen in more than a decade, and yet public support for the practice dropped to a record low of 52%.

Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN) was founded in 2009 to advance the USCCB's *Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty*. Over the last 16 years, CMN has led our Church's ministry to end the death penalty, to advance justice solutions in alignment with Catholic values, and to promote healing through restorative justice approaches and practices. CMN's prayer, education and advocacy programming creates the space to encounter those impacted by harm, and model paths where healing and transformation might be possible.

Since the 2018 revision to the Catechism (CCC 2267) which calls the death penalty "inadmissible," six new states have officially halted executions. CMN played an integral part in each of these positive developments, as well as opposition to upcoming executions in each of the active death penalty states. Whether in opposing executions or advancing efforts to abolish the death penalty, many of our dioceses rely on CMN's support and expertise in addition to their advocacy and education resources. The enclosed document includes more information about CMN's collaboration with the USCCB, achievements, and recent activities.

Today, we invite you to support CMN's important pro-life ministry. CMN receives no other institutional funding from the Church, so its yearly appeal to the U.S. bishops is critical to continuing its essential mission. We have set a \$90,000 goal from at least 100 bishops.

Let us join the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, as he encouraged the Members of the Diplomatic Corps, in continuing the spirit of the Jubilee Year in a way that "... will permanently and structurally inspire the administration of justice, so that ... above all, efforts are made to abolish the death penalty, a measure that destroys all hope of forgiveness and renewal."

Together, we can uphold the dignity of all life.

Fraternally In Christ,

Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, STD
Bishop of Brownsville
CMN Episcopal Advisor

Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
President, United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops

Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre
Archbishop of Louisville
Chair, Committee on Domestic
Justice and Human Development

+ Samuel J. Aquila
Most Rev. Samuel J. Aquila
Archbishop Emeritus of Denver

+ Gregory M. Aymond
Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop Emeritus of New Orleans

+ John O. Barres
Most Rev. John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

+ Mark A. Bartosic
Most Rev. Mark A. Bartosic
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago

+ Ramon Bejarano
Most Rev. Ramon Bejarano
Bishop of Monterey

+ Stephen J. Berg
Most Rev. Stephen J. Berg
Bishop of Pueblo

+ Steven R. Biegler
Most Rev. Steven R. Biegler
Bishop of Cheyenne

+ Mark E. Brennan
Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

+ Robert J. Brennan
Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn

+ Timothy P. Broglio
Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA

+ Scott E. Bullock
Most Rev. Scott E. Bullock
Bishop of Rapid City

+ Frank J. Caggiano
Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

+ Oscar Cantú
Most Rev. Oscar Cantú
Bishop of San Jose

+ Robert G. Casey
Most Rev. Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati

+ James F. Checchio
Most Rev. James F. Checchio
Archbishop of New Orleans

+ Salvatore J. Cordileone
Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco

+ Christopher J. Coyne
Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne
Archbishop of Hartford

+ Andrew H. Cozzens
Most Rev. Andrew H. Cozzens
Bishop of Crookston

+ Blase J. Cupich
His Eminence Car. Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

+ Frank J. Dewane
Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of Venice

+ Daniel N. DiNardo
His Eminence Car. Daniel N. DiNardo
Archbishop Emeritus of Galveston-Houston

+ Michael G. Duca
Most Rev. Michael G. Duca
Bishop of Baton Rouge

+ Mark A. Eckman
Most Rev. Mark Eckman
Bishop of Pittsburgh

+ Eusebio L. Elizondo, MSPS
Most Rev. Eusebio L. Elizondo, MSPS
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

+ Felipe J. Estévez
Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez
Bishop Emeritus of St. Augustine

+ Paul D. Etienne
Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne
Archbishop of Seattle

+ Jacques E. Fabre-Jeune, CS
Most Rev. Jacques E. Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston

+ Earl K. Fernandes
Most Rev. Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

+ John T. Folda
Most Rev. John T. Folda
Bishop of Fargo

+ Daniel E. Garcia
Most Rev. Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Austin

+ Wilton D. Gregory
His Eminence Car. Wilton D. Gregory
Archbishop Emeritus of Washington

+ Robert D. Gruss
Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw

+ Borys A. Gudziak
Most Rev. Borys A. Gudziak
Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic
Archeparchy of Philadelphia

+ Joseph G. Hanefeldt

Most Rev. Joseph G. Hanefeldt
Bishop of Grand Island

+ Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.

Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.
Archbishop of Atlanta

+ Bernard A. Hebda

Most Rev. Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

+ William M. Joensen

Most Rev. William M. Joensen
Bishop of Des Moines

+ Carl A. Kemme

Most Rev. Carl A. Kemme
Bishop of Wichita

+ Donald J. Kettler

Most Rev. Donald J. Kettler
Bishop Emeritus of St. Cloud

+ Louis Kihneman

Most Rev. Louis Kihneman, III
Bishop of Biloxi

+ Barry C. Knestout

Most Rev. Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

Bishop David Konderla

Most Rev. David Konderla
Bishop of Tulsa

+ Joseph R. Kopacz

Most Rev. Joseph R. Kopacz
Bishop of Jackson

+ Joseph E. Kurtz

Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, DD
Archbishop Emeritus of Louisville

+ Terry R. LaValley

Most Rev. Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

+ Peter A. Libasci

Most Rev. Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester

+ William E. Lori

Most Rev. William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore

+ Edward C. Malesic

Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic
Bishop of Cleveland

+ Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv.

Most Rev. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv.
Bishop of Charlotte

+ Robert Cardinal McElroy

His Eminence Car. Robert W. McElroy
Archbishop of Washington

Michael G. McGovern

Most Rev. Michael G. McGovern
Archbishop of Omaha

+ W. Shawn McKnight

Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight
Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas

Daniel Mueggenborg

Most Rev. Daniel H. Mueggenborg
Bishop of Reno

+ Joseph F. Naumann

Most Rev. Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop Emeritus of Kansas City
in Kansas

+ Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.

Most Rev. Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.
Bishop of St. Cloud

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Rev. Michael F. Olson
Bishop of Fort Worth

+ Gregory L. Parkes

Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes
Bishop of St. Petersburg

+ Richard E. Pates

Most Rev. Richard E. Pates
Bishop Emeritus of Des Moines

+ Erik T. Pohlmeier

Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier
Bishop of St. Augustine

+ Felipe Pulido

Most Rev. Felipe Pulido
Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego

+ Kevin C. Rhoades

Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

+ Mark S. Rivotuso

Most Rev. Mark S. Rivotuso
Archbishop of Mobile

+ Peter A. Rosazza

Most Rev. Peter A. Rosazza
Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Hartford

+ Mitchell T. Rozanski
Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of Saint Louis

+ James T. Ruggieri
Most Rev. James Ruggieri
Bishop of Portland in Maine

+ Alexander K. Sample
Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon

+ Frank Schuster
Most Rev. Frank Schuster
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

+ Timothy C. Senior
Most Rev. Timothy C. Senior
Bishop of Harrisburg

+ Bernard E. Shlesinger, III
Most Rev. Bernard E. Shlesinger, III
Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta

+ Michael J. Sis
Most Rev. Michael J. Sis
Bishop of San Angelo

+ Peter L. Smith
Most Rev. Peter L. Smith
Auxiliary Bishop of Portland in Oregon

+ Oscar A. Solis
Most Rev. Oscar A. Solis
Bishop of Salt Lake City

+ Jaime Soto
Most Rev. Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento

+ John Stowe, OFM Conv.
Most Rev. John Stowe, OFM Conv.
Bishop of Lexington

+ Dennis J. Sullivan
Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan
Bishop Emeritus of Camden

+ David P. Talley
Most Rev. David P. Talley
Bishop of Memphis

+ Charles C. Thompson
Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson
Archbishop of Indianapolis

+ Joseph W. Tobin, CSSR
His Eminence Car. Joseph W. Tobin, CSSR
Archbishop of Newark

+ David L. Toups
Most Rev. David L. Toups
Bishop of Beaumont

+ Louis Tylka
Most Rev. Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

+ Joseph J. Tyson
Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

+ Joe S. Vásquez
Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

+ Gerald L. Vincke
Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke
Bishop of Salina

+ William Wack, C.S.C.
Most Rev. William Wack, C.S.C.
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee

+ Dennis G. Walsh
Most Rev. Dennis G. Walsh
Bishop of Davenport

+ Edward J. Weisenburger
Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Archbishop of Detroit

+ Thomas G. Wenski
Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami

+ John C. Wester
Most Rev. John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe

+ A. Elias Zaidan, MLM
Most Rev. A. Elias Zaidan, MLM
Bishop of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

+ Thomas R. Zinkula
Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula
Archbishop of Dubuque

+ David A. Zubik
Most Rev. David A. Zubik
Bishop Emeritus of Pittsburgh

CMN VIRTUAL EVENTS



Several bishops joined CMN this year for virtual events including **Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre, Archbishop of Louisville** who presented at the webinar, [The State of the Death Penalty in 2026](#); and **Most Rev. William A. Wack, C.S.C., Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee** who presented with CMN at an event hosted by the [McGrath Institute for Church Life](#) at the University of Notre Dame.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv., Archbishop of Atlanta presided over the Opening Mass for the [2025 National Catholic Conference on Restorative Justice](#). Drawing on the special Jubilee Year, the conference explored the theme *Tangible Signs of Hope*, and illuminated concrete examples of where and how Catholics can contribute to restorative justice efforts that transform the U.S. systems of capital punishment and incarceration.



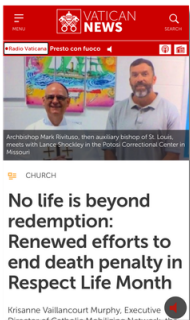
From the teaching of Our Lord, we must conclude that the death penalty is inappropriate because it attacks the inviolability and dignity of the human person, and because society today has the means to protect itself without ending another human life.

— Statement from **Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City**, urging clemency for Kendrick Simpson. Kendrick was executed by the state of Oklahoma on February 12, 2026.



Media Coverage

Explore [CMN's media coverage and placements](#) in secular and religious outlets at the local, national, and international level.



CMN's Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy offers a monthly contribution to Vatican News. In October, it featured **Most Rev. Mark S. Rivituro, Archbishop of Mobile** who visited with Lance Shockley on death row in Missouri. Lance was executed on October 14, 2025.



THE IMPACT OF PAPAL LEADERSHIP

The Legacy of Pope Francis

Pope Francis was an indefatigable protagonist in the global efforts to end the death penalty and usher in a global restorative practice of synodality.



His legacy includes a **historic address to the U.S. Congress in September of 2015**, a **revision to the death penalty teaching** within the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 2018, and his 2020 commitment to the continued work of abolition found in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*.

Welcoming the New Holy Father

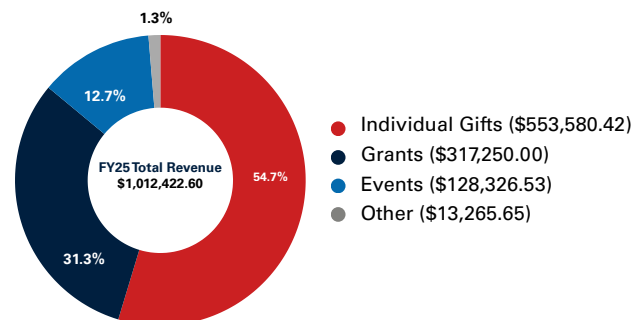
Pope Leo XIV has demonstrated a continued commitment to pastoral leadership on the issue of the death penalty within the first year of his pontificate.



He has called the Church multiple times to the work of abolition as a critical pro-life issue and encouraged the practices of restorative justice as a way of building peace in our midst.

FY25 Financials

View the [FY25 Impact Report at catholicismobilizing.org/impact-25](#)



Special gratitude to CMN's Episcopal Advisor, Bishop Daniel Flores, for his guidance and accompaniment.

2026 BISHOPS' EASTER APPEAL

Contributions can be mailed to:

Catholic Mobilizing Network
415 Michigan Ave NE
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20017

Contributions can be made online:

catholicmobilizing.org/bishops-26

** Electronic Fund Transfer can be completed either through the "echeck" option on the online donation form, or using CMN's bank info listed below.*

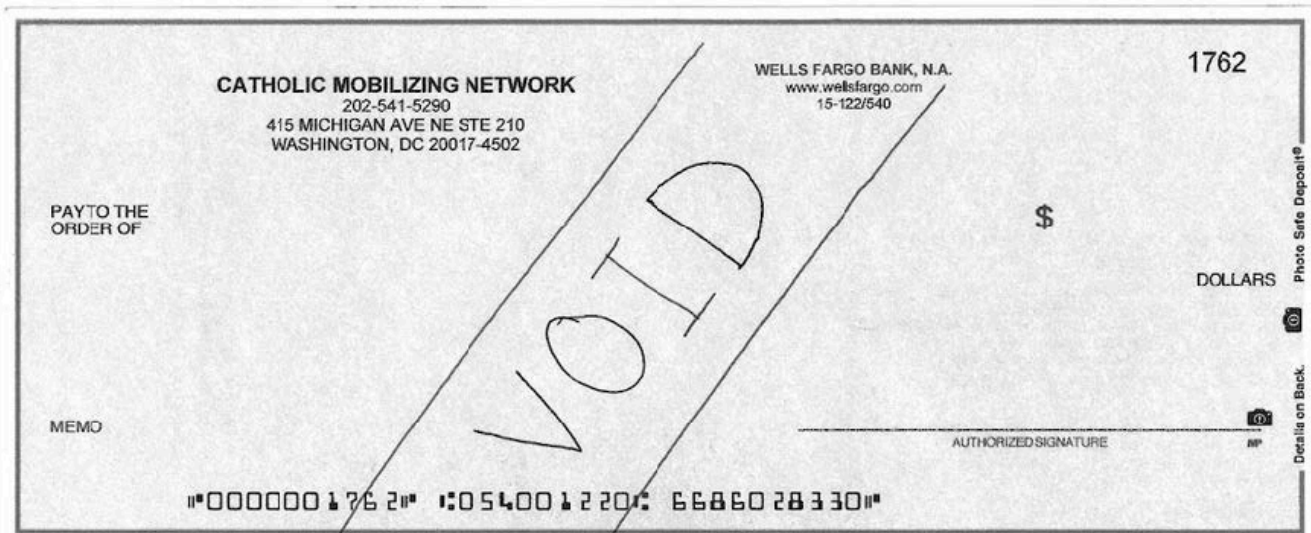
BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

Bank Account Information:

Bank Acct Name: **Catholic Mobilizing Network**
Bank Name: **Wells Fargo Bank, NA**
Bank Address: **3700 Calvert St. NW
Washington, DC 20007**

Bank Acct #: **6686028330**
Bank Routing #: **054001220**
Bank Acct Type: **Checking**

**The above information is accurate, and CMN has authorized your direct deposit in response to this appeal.*



CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeff Sved, Director of Development
(301) 818-1380
jeff@catholicmobilizing.org

