



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) that called 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

Co-Signatory #2
Title

Co-Signatory #3
Title

Co-Signatory #4 Title	Co-Signatory #5 Title	Co-Signatory #6 Title
Co-Signatory #7 Title	Co-Signatory #8 Title	Co-Signatory #9 Title
Co-Signatory #10 Title	Co-Signatory #11 Title	Co-Signatory #12 Title
Co-Signatory #13 Title	Co-Signatory #14 Title	Co-Signatory #15 Title
Co-Signatory #16 Title	Co-Signatory #17 Title	Co-Signatory #18 Title
Co-Signatory #19 Title	Co-Signatory #20 Title	Co-Signatory #21 Title
Co-Signatory #22 Title	Co-Signatory #23 Title	Co-Signatory #24 Title

****Co-signers will be listed alphabetically***

****Please provide a digital signature to the staff at Catholic Mobilizing Network to add your name***

****Donations can be mailed to:***

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

****Or made online at: <https://catholicmobilizing.org/bishops-appeal-2026/>***

Electronic Fund Transfer can be completed by selecting the "Pay with Bank Account" option on the online donation form, or using CMN's bank info on the last page of this document.

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.



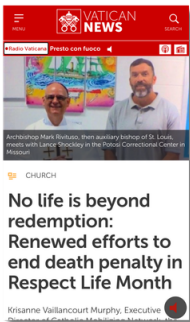
From the teaching of Our Lord, we must conclude that the death penalty is inappropriate because it attacks the inviolability and dignity of the human person, and because society today has the means to protect itself without ending another human life.

— 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. Rivituso, 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

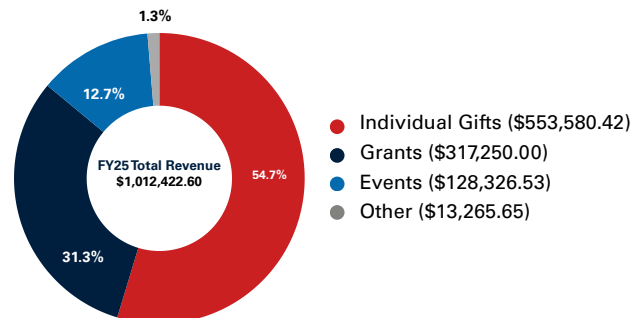
Pope Leo XIV has demonstrated a continued commitment to pastoral leadership on the issue of the death penalty within the first year of his pontificate.



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 catholicmobilizing.org/impact-25



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

