

10 May 2026

DID YOU KNOW?



The Diocese of Fresno joins dioceses across the country to offer weekend healing retreats for anyone mourning the loss of a child by abortion.

"There is hope after abortion. It's common but often unspoken — to grieve the loss of a child by abortion. It may seem that nothing can fill the emptiness of one's heart. Be assured that there is forgiveness, hope and healing." "If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, **non-judgmental** help is available from Project Rachel Ministry." "In addition to referring for Sacramental Reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats and referrals to licensed mental health professionals. It is open to all ... people of all faiths or no faith."

—USCCB Topics: Project Rachel Ministry (emphasis added)

In Fresno, Project Rachel is called **"Rachel's Vineyard"**. For more information about Rachel's Vineyard, please visit: <https://dioceseoffresno.org/rachels-vineyard> or <http://usccb.org/topics/project-rachel-ministry>



17 May 2026

DID YOU KNOW?



The bishops of the United States invite us to ecological conversion through "solidarity, local discernment, and action".

"[A]s Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato si'*:

"The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast." For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion' (no. 217).

Indifference and distance from one another have led to devastating consequences for God's creation, **including the poor.** ...

Our world is hurtling toward unsustainable climate conditions that will affect the flourishing of people all over the planet. This unsustainable situation is, in part, caused by ever-increasing **consumption** enabled by the ability to accumulate with a simple click of the button, and incessant marketing to convince us that we all need more.

At the same time, our country is stepping back from global and national efforts to change course. Progress to slow **climate change** remains elusive, even while instances of extreme weather, wildfires, droughts, and floods are now common. Receiving the brunt of the burden are **people seeking refuge** from disasters, **farmers** struggling to adapt to erratic weather patterns, **children** suffering from dehydration and hunger, **migrants** who flee their homes due to loss of livelihood, and **species declining** in forests and coral reefs. Never has it been clearer that everything is interconnected. ...

'[W]ithout climate justice there is no **peace**, without ecological conversion there is no **future**, without listening to the people there are no **real solutions**.'"

—USCCB, An Invitation to Ecological Conversion for U.S. Catholics, 2026

The bishops encourage us to advocate for laws that protect the environment and workers, and personally support companies that prioritize the environment and use renewable energy in our homes.

To read the bishops' entire exhortation to ecological conversion, please visit: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/invitation-ecological-conversion-us-catholics>



24 May 2026 →

DID YOU KNOW?



The bishops of the United States support birthright citizenship, which provides that all people born in the United States are citizens of this country, as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Earlier this year, the bishops joined the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. to file a "friend of the court" brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Trump v Barbara*:

"Not only is the principle of birthright citizenship woven into our Nation's history and Western tradition, but it is also consistent with Catholic teaching. Birthright citizenship aligns with the Church's teaching that humans were created as social beings and that political authority is morally bound to affirm and protect the **inherent dignity of every human person** in the community. ... Executive Order 14,160 (the 'Executive Order') purports to deny citizenship to children whose mother is 'unlawfully present' or has 'temporary' status, and whose father is not a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. ... The intended and unintended effects of the Executive Order are **immoral and contrary to the Catholic Church's fundamental beliefs and teachings** regarding the life and dignity of human persons, the treatment of vulnerable people—particularly migrants and children—and family unity. ...

The Conference is saddened by the 'climate of fear and anxiety' and the 'vilification of immigrants' that is all too common in the rhetoric concerning immigration policy. ... Thankfully, obstacles and prejudices over past generations have not prevented those generations of immigrants from making **enormous contributions** to the development of our great nation." —USCCB, Amicus Curiae Brief, *Trump v Barbara* (emphasis added)

To read the bishops' entire Supreme Court Brief, please see: https://www.usccb.org/resources/26-0227_Amicus_TrumpvBarbara.pdf



19 April 2026

DID YOU KNOW?



Pope Leo XIV regularly posts on X/ Twitter, encouraging us to follow Catholic Social Teaching, including supporting peace-making dialogue and the equitable distribution of wealth. Please consider joining CEAC to help our parish live the fullness of our Faith!

"Absurd and inhuman violence is spreading ferociously through the sacred places of the Christian East, profaned by the **blasphemy of war and the brutality of business**, with no regard for people's lives, which are considered at most collateral damage of self-interest. But no gain can be worth the life of the weakest, children, or families. No cause can justify the **shedding of innocent blood**." —Pope Leo XIV (6:05 AM · Apr 10, 2026, emphasis added)

"**Hundreds of millions** of people throughout the world are immersed in extreme poverty. Yet, disproportionate wealth remains in the hands of a few. It is an unjust scenario, in the face of which we cannot fail to question ourselves and **commit to change** things. There is no lack of resources at the root of disparities, but the need to address solvable problems related to a more **equitable distribution of wealth**, to be achieved with moral sense and honesty." —Pope Leo XIV (6:15 AM · Apr 10, 2026, emphasis added)



See Pope Leo's complete X/Twitter feed at:
<https://x.com/Pontifex/>

26 April 2026

DID YOU KNOW?



The bishops of the United States and an umbrella of Catholic organizations have led a 21 year Justice for Immigrants Campaign to educate the public about the Church's teaching about migration, and to advocate for "dignified and fair reforms in immigration and refugee laws and policies". Most recently, it has launched the You Are Not Alone Initiative, which states:

"You have in your hands a very great task, to accompany those who need a sign that God never abandons anyone—not the smallest, not the poorest, not the foreigner, not anyone." — Pope Leo XIV

Our Catholic faith teaches that every person is made in the image of God and deserves respect, dignity, and care. While people have the right to build a future in their homeland, they also have the **right to migrate** when life at home becomes unsafe or unsustainable. In response to the growing **fear and instability** caused by increased immigration enforcement and the threat of **mass deportations**, the Catholic Church has launched the You Are Not Alone initiative to assure migrants and their families that the Church stands with them, offering pastoral support and accompaniment during this difficult time" with:

- emergency and family **support** "educating communities on their legal rights, responding to enforcement actions taking place in your community, or providing support after enforcement has occurred."
- solidarity through public prayer and **witness**: "As threats of family separation, detention, and deportation rise, people of faith across the country are coming together to publicly stand with migrant and refugee communities."
- accompaniment and **pastoral care**, "ministering to those detained and their families navigating the immigration system or walking with farmworkers through practical, pastoral, and spiritual support that upholds their God-given dignity." (emphasis added)

For more information about how to join the bishops' efforts, please visit:
<https://justiceforimmigrants.org/you-are-not-alone/>



3 May 2026 →

DID YOU KNOW?



Pope St. John Paul II opposed the modern use of the death penalty as part of his famous unconditionally pro-life teaching, and the bishops of the United States have long sought the **end of capital punishment** as a violent response to violence:

"[Punishment] ought not go to the extreme of executing the offender except in cases of absolute necessity: in other words, when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society. Today however, as a result of steady improvements in the organization of the penal system, such cases are very rare, if not **practically non-existent**."

—Pope St. John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae)*, 1995

"We hope and pray that this campaign will help bring **an end** to the use of the death penalty. This end may come through an act of Congress or a definitive court decision; more likely the death penalty will be abandoned and wither away through the everyday choices of prosecutors and legislators, judges and jurors, and ordinary citizens who make a commitment to **respect human life** in every situation. We look forward to the day when our society chooses not to answer violence with violence."

—USCCB, *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death* (emphasis added)

Learn more about the Church's pro-life teaching about the death penalty at: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/churchs-anti-death-penalty-position>



29 March 2026

DID YOU KNOW



In the final Lent of his papacy in 2025, Pope Francis called us to conversion, urging us to show sympathy and compassion towards migrants, recognizing that we all are pilgrims in this life:

"It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of **misery and violence** in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. A first call to **conversion** thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity? It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to **sympathize** with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better **advance on our journey** to the house of the Father. This would be a good 'examination of conscience' for all of us wayfarers."



—Pope Francis, 25 February 2025, "Let us journey together in hope" (emphasis added)
See the full papal message at: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2025/02/25/250225b.html>

5 April 2026

DID YOU KNOW?



The bishops of the United States call for laws and personal actions to end the "epidemic of violence", including stricter regulations on the sale and ownership of guns, and safe storage:

"When the preservation of life is at issue, we must respond. There are **tens of thousands** of gun-related deaths each year in the United States. A majority of these deaths are the result of suicide. This **epidemic of violence** is present in every community and affects the people of God in our dioceses and parishes. The USCCB has historically supported common sense measures of gun policy to address the violence, including:

- A ban on assault weapons
 - Universal background checks
 - A federal gun trafficking bill
 - Regulations on sales of handguns
 - Improved access to mental health care
 - Banning large capacity magazines
 - Safe storage measures
 - Extreme risk protective orders
 - An honest assessment of violent images and experiences in our society."
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Gun Violence" (emphasis added)

See details at: <https://www.usccb.org/gun-violence>



12 April 2026 →

DID YOU KNOW?



Pope Leo XIV has repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire in the Middle East. In the final days of Lent, he decried the abuse of God's Name in the defense of warmaking:

"[O]ur brothers and sisters around the world are suffering because of violent conflicts, sparked by the **absurd notion** that problems and differences can be resolved through war. Some even go so far as to invoke God's name in these choices of death."

"**Thousands** of innocent people have been killed, and **countless others** have been forced to flee their homes. I renew my prayerful closeness to all who have lost loved ones in the attacks, which have struck schools, hospitals and residential areas." "God cannot be enlisted by darkness. Rather, he always comes to bring light, hope and peace to humanity, and it is peace that must be sought by those who call upon him." "[I]t is essential that our faith be **alert, attentive and prophetic**. It should likewise open our eyes to the darkness of the world and bring to others the light of the Gospel through our commitment to **peace, justice and solidarity**." "I appeal to those responsible for this conflict: cease fire! May paths of dialogue be reopened! Violence can never lead to the justice, stability and peace for which the people are waiting." —Pope Leo XIV

(emphasis added) See the complete Catholic News Service story from the USCCB at: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2026/gods-name-can-never-be-used-justify-absurd-pursuit-war-pope-says>



15 March 2026

DID YOU KNOW

The bishops of the United States have joined Pope Leo XIV to urge the United States, Iran, and other nations involved to “halt the spiral of violence before it becomes ‘an unbridgeable chasm’” in the Middle East.

“At this critical moment, I invite Catholics and all people of goodwill to continue our ardent prayers for peace in the Middle East, for the safety of our troops and the innocent, that leaders may seek dialogue over destruction, and pursue the common good over the tragedy of war. We implore the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Mary, Queen of Peace, to pray for our troubled world and for a lasting peace.” —United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) President, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

See the article from the USCCB’s Office of Public Affairs for more information: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2026/archbishop-coakley-echoes-pope-leo-xivs-appeal-renewed-dialogue-amid-rising-tensions>



22 March 2026 →

DID YOU KNOW



The bishops of the United States are critically-concerned about current statements vilifying immigrants and actions targeting them in churches, hospitals, and schools. They insist that we respect the God-given dignity of all people:

“Catholic teaching recognizes that nations have a right to control their borders and to enforce valid laws. At the same time, the Christian faith teaches that **every human person is created in the image of God and has inherent dignity**. The U.S. bishops have been united in their support for the rights of immigrants and for every person to be treated with the respect their God-given dignity demands, regardless of immigration status. In a special pastoral message on November 12, the U.S. bishops criticized the **vilification of immigrants** and threats against the sanctity of **houses of worship** and the special nature of **hospitals** and **schools** in the course of immigration enforcement.”

—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) February 17, 2026 Annual Report on the State of Religious Liberty in the United States, page 52 (emphasis added)
See the full report at: https://www.usccb.org/resources/Annual_Report_Religious_Liberty_2026.pdf

