



Office of Advocacy & Justice

“To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love is to open up a horizon of hope”
-Pope Francis

In the Month of Mary, Let us Pray for Life, Justice, and Peace

For many centuries the Catholic Church has designated May as a special month of devotion to our Blessed Mother. After the cold of January and February and the spring showers of March and April, May rises as a month full of color and light. It is therefore appropriate that the Church celebrate our Blessed Mother Mary in a special way during this time. In our mission to spread the Gospel of Life and to foster a love of peace and justice in our diocese, we invite everyone to join us in praying to the Blessed Mother for life, justice and peace. Below we provide some prayer resources:

- [How to Pray the Rosary](#)
- [Blessed John Paul II's Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)
- [Month of Mary, History and Devotions](#)
- [Light a candle at Catholic Relief Services' Virtual Chapel](#)
- [Prayer for Peace to Mary, the Light of Hope](#)



The Gosnell Case is Not Atypical, by Alejandro Luciano

In recent weeks we have observed with horror the never-ending gruesome details of [what went on daily at Dr. Kermit Gosnell's abortion clinic in Philadelphia](#). (links to story in *The Atlantic*, some disturbing images and graphic details are given). We shouldn't be amazed. The goal of abortion is the destruction of human life. The Gosnell case is an extreme but it is not atypical. Perhaps most abortion clinics are not as unsanitary or careless as Gosnell's, but the aim is the same. In the craze to normalize and justify abortion, all is sacrificed. If the child survives he or she gets the cold shoulder. This is not the delivery room, this is an abortuary. The aim is a dead baby, not a live child that needs to be cared for. The women are victims of their circumstances and many times are not aware of the real choices available to them.

It is very interesting for us here at the Office of Advocacy and Justice, that this case should come to national attention, notwithstanding apathy in some sectors of the media, just weeks after our visit to Tallahassee for [Catholic Days at the Capitol](#). During that visit one of the bills we advocated for was [the Infants Born Alive Bill sponsored by Rep. Cary Pigman](#). This bill seeks to provide guidelines for care of children that survive abortion. When advocating for this bill in front of our legislators some of them were puzzled and asked if this really happens. Our office director, Deborah Shearer, told one of the representatives "Have you not heard of the Philadelphia case?" The representative shook her head and looked even more puzzled. Well, I think she's heard about it now, and I'm proud to say that the bill is close to becoming law after [its unanimous passage in the Florida Senate on April 30th](#). Legislative advocacy is powerful!

Our duties as Christians go far beyond the condemnation of abortion. We must teach the truth but we must also act. I urge our readers to learn about their [local crisis pregnancy centers](#). Lives are saved every day at these centers and the women and men that volunteer to help are the unsung heroes of the Pro-Life Movement. [Learn about the Gosnell case with this documentary](#), and never cease to pray for those suffering the effects of abortion.

Execution Scheduled for May 29th

Elmer Leon Carroll is scheduled to be executed on Wednesday, May 29th. Please pray for Mr. Carroll, his family, the victim's family and friends, that they will continue to receive healing through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; for all the public officials involved in this scheduled execution; for Governor Scott, that he will discern God's will and apply the teachings of our Catholic faith on the death penalty. A vigil will be held at 5pm on May 29 at St. James Cathedral.

The bishops agreed the vigil should have a focus on "ending the use" of the death penalty and also prayers for the victims of the crime, their families and loved ones, and for the individual being executed. Vigils will rotate through the dioceses with the selected diocese for the service determined on a case by case basis. Join us for the first such vigil in our diocese.

Stand 4 Life

Join us with members from many faith communities on Saturday, May 4th from 10am-12pm to stand in prayerful witness at abortion sites across the state. This is an opportunity to be in solidarity with others, praying at the foot of the cross at Calvary. [More information here.](#)

This Mother's Day Give the Gift of Hope and Justice!

Billions of dollars are spent every year in our country on Mother's Day cards and gifts. This year, why not give two gifts? By buying fair trade you are not only giving an unique and beautiful gift to your mother and other important women in your life but you are also providing hope for women and men in poor communities who are using their talents to provide for their families and life their communities out of poverty. Click on the picture below to see the beautiful handmade gifts available this year.



Hope and Healing for Post-Abortive Women

May 17-19 at San Pedro Center in Winter Park. Have you been affected by abortion? Do you need peace, community and the love of God? This weekend is for you. This confidential retreat offers a safe, non-judgmental environment where women and men find healing and reconciliation for their painful experience of abortion. For more information or to register, please contact Karen at 321.662.5097 or karenreilly57@gmail.com. For additional information about Rachel's Vineyard, please visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Pope's Prayer Intentions for May

General intention: "that administrators of justice may act always with integrity and right conscience."

Missionary intention: "that seminaries, especially those of mission Churches, may form pastors after the Heart of Christ, fully dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel."

Visit these websites for up-to-date news about the Holy Father:

[News.va](#)

[L'Osservatore Romano](#)

[Rome Reports](#)



Events in May

4: [Stand 4 Life at local abortion clinics](#)

17-19: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

21-24: [Catholic Legal Immigration Network \(CLINIC\)](#), national convening in Washington, D.C.

News

[USCCB President Says 'Now Is the Time' To Reform Immigration System](#)

[Survey Shows Strong Catholic Support For Immigration Reform](#)

[Bishops Reiterate Budget Priorities, Cite Concern For International Disaster Relief In Letter To Congress](#)

[Pope and Israeli President : Hopes for resumption of peace talks](#)

[Archbishop Francis Chullikatt's Address to the UN on Poverty Eradication](#)

