

## *Nationwide Invitation to Prayer*

### *From The Office of Archbishop Naumann*

*The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join in this focused effort of prayer for the end of abortion and the protection of women and preborn children, beginning this Monday, March 25 through June 2024.*

*See below for the full message and special prayer.*

On March 26, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case that has the potential to make a major impact in the widespread accessibility of chemical abortion (abortion pills). Chemical abortions are now the most common form of abortion in the United States.

The case is in response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) promoting the availability of chemical abortion while ignoring risks to women and violating federal law. In short, the FDA has enabled a nationwide mail-order abortion industry and turned neighborhood pharmacies into chemical abortion providers.

While the Supreme Court case is not about ending chemical abortion, it can restore limitations that the FDA has overridden. When a Supreme Court decision is released, probably in June, we can expect a public and political reaction similar to the *Dobbs* decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

The USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer for the end of abortion and the protection of women and preborn children, beginning on March 25, the eve of the oral arguments, and the anniversary of St. John Paul II's landmark, pro-life encyclical, *The Gospel of Life (Evangelium vitae)*. In particular, we will invoke the intercession of *St. Joseph, Defender of Life* with this prayer:

*Dearest St. Joseph,  
at the word of an angel,  
you lovingly took Mary into your home.  
As God's humble servant, you guided  
the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem,  
welcomed Jesus as your own son  
in the shelter of a manger,  
and fled far from your homeland  
for the safety of both Mother and Child.*

*We praise God that as their faithful protector,  
you never hesitated to sacrifice  
for those entrusted to you.  
May your example inspire us also  
to welcome, cherish, and safeguard  
God's most precious gift of life.*

*Help us to faithfully commit ourselves  
to the service and defense of human life  
—especially where it is  
vulnerable or threatened.  
Obtain for us the grace  
to do the will of God in all things.  
Amen.*