



Live the Gospel of *Life*

Pro-Life Notes Vol. 5 No. 12

October 7, 2025

Transitional Deacon Ordination Takes Place in Rome

Bishop Hanefeldt presided at the ordination of sixteen new deacons at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica on October 2. Among them was **Deacon Noah Huddleston of St. James Parish, Kearney**. Deacon Noah will spend his final year of seminary formation preparing for the priesthood. Please keep all the newly ordained Deacons in your prayers. Bishop Hanefeldt's homily is [here](#)



Newly ordained Deacon Noah Huddleston of the Diocese of Grand Island assists Bishop Hanefeldt at Mass in St. Peter's in Rome. (October 2, 2025. Image Source: EWTN Live.)

Pro-Life Office

-Respect Life Month-Novena Oct 22-30

The [Respect Life Month Novena](#) will be posted by 7 a.m. (Eastern) October 22-30 on the USCCB's social media. We encourage you to share the daily novena posts from these accounts: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/usccb>; X (formerly Twitter): <https://x.com/usccb>; Instagram (stories): <https://www.instagram.com/usccb/>; Threads: <https://www.threads.com/@usccb>

Additionally, we offer an abbreviated version of the Novena, suggested for use after daily Mass. Here are the links: [English](#) [Spanish](#)

[Graphics and pre-written sample announcements](#) are available in English and Spanish to help parishes, schools, and dioceses promote the [Respect Life Month Novena](#).

-Students for Life-Called Initiative

- Pro-life [lesson plans](#) for classrooms and youth ministry
- [Guest speakers on pro-life issues](#), who are trained to teach in a Catholic setting
- [Event-In-a-Box kits \(EIBs\)](#), including an EIB dedicated to Respect Life Month.

Contact Jordan Moorman jmoorman@studentsforlife.org O: 540.834.4600. C: 812-212-1766

-Life Chain

The North Platte Catholic High School Students really showed up to support Life! Great job!

North Platte Catholic High School
Students attend Life Chain
5 October, 2025



National Pro-Life Chalk Day

Across the country, students like YOU will be hitting the sidewalks to expose the truth about abortion, to memorialize the lives lost, and demand justice for the voiceless. Individuals, CCD classes, PL SFL youth, and College Campus ministries who want to participate should **register by Monday, October 13th, at 12 PM ET** to receive a **FREE Chalk Day Kit**. Prizes will be awarded. Get more information and register [here](#). Also, please send photos of your artwork to frontdesk@gidiocese.org.

Nebraska Catholic Conference

-The Capitol Update

Last week marked a huge milestone for Tom Venzor, who celebrated 10 years at the Nebraska Catholic Conference (NCC)! In his weekly diocesan newspaper column, Tom reflected on what he calls his “dream job” as a vocation of bringing Catholic social teaching to the public square. Tom first discovered the NCC while in law school and immediately knew he wanted to work there “when he grew up.” After a winding journey, including time in the seminary for the Archdiocese of Omaha, God’s providence brought him back to the NCC, and soon after, he became the Executive Director. In his words: *“I have, by the grace of God, never had a day when I didn’t want to go to work. This is my dream job!”*



*Tom Venzor, with his daughters, rallying for Heartbeat Bill on the Nebraska State Capitol Steps.
(Image Source: Nebraska Catholic Conference)*

September 25, 2025, [I'm Ten Years Old!](#), by Tom Venzor

September 29, 2025, [I'm Ten Years Old, Part Deux!](#), by Tom Venzor

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

-Moral Hierarchy of Life

Bishop Thomas [spoke with OSV News](#) on Respect Life Month, the preeminence of abortion in the moral hierarchy, the decision of Senator Durbin not to receive the Keep Hope Alive award, and Pope Leo XIV's recent comments.

-Assisted Suicide Update

[Catholic News Agency reported](#): "The Patients' Rights Action Fund, which works to 'end the dangerous and discriminatory public policy of assisted suicide,' provided an update on current assisted suicide legislation in the United States, revealing the deadly practice's ongoing expansion throughout the country."

-Mental Harm of Abortion

A study recently published in the *International Journal of Women's Health Care* reveals the long-term emotional dangers of abortion. It reports that 1 in 4 women suffer serious mental health distress after an abortion, challenging the myth that abortion aids mental health. Read the full study [here](#)!

-Gender Ideology Document Released

Most Reverend Daniel Thomas, Bishop of Toledo, recently issued a document entitled [The Body Reveals the Person: A Catholic Response to the Challenges of Gender Ideology](#). National Catholic Register [reports](#) that it draws on "Scripture, theology, philosophy and social sciences to present Church teaching in a form the bishop said he hopes is 'readable, digestible, accessible, and charitable.'"

-Word of Life

The [November 2025 edition of Word of Life](#) is available in English and Spanish.

Walking With Moms in Need

-New Video

A [new, 3-minute, bilingual video](#) features interviews in English and Spanish to help inspire parishes to start [Walking with Moms in Need](#). We are excited to provide this additional outreach resource for Spanish-speaking communities!

-Newsletter

Here is the most recent newsletter: [Walking with Moms Newsletter: September 2025](#)

Pro-Life Calendar

Oct.	Respect Life Month, USCCB Action Guide https://www.respectlife.org/
Oct 11	Health Care Ethics Conference, Creighton University, convergingroads.com/omaha .
Oct 12	Respect Life Eucharistic Procession, Cathedral (3:00 PM)
Oct 22-30	Respect Life Novena, https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month-novena
Nov 15	White Mass, Catholic Medical Association, Good Samaritan Chapel, Kearney (4:00 PM)
Nov 21-22	Bishops' PL Banquet and Conference, Lincoln
Dec 06	Visitation Banquet, UNK SFL Charity Event, Kearney
Dec 29	Holy Innocents Mass for Healing, Cathedral (5:15 PM) Celebrant: Bishop James Golka (invited)
Jan-Mar	Pro-Life Youth Art and Essay Contests https://gidiocese.org/pro-life
Jan 16-24	9 Days for Life Novena https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup .
Jan 22	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, USCCB Action Guide https://www.respectlife.org/
Jan 22-23	National Prayer Vigil for Life https://www.nationalshrine.org/event/2026-national-prayer-vigil-for-life/
Jan 23	Lifestest www.lifestestally.com
Jan 23	National March for Life in Washington, DC https://marchforlife.org .
Jan 30-31	Nebraska Walk for Life & Gala in Lincoln https://nebraskarighttolife.org/?s=NE+WALK+FOR+LIFE