



What is service? How do we provide service? Service is an action-word, meaning to do something, provide something, or help someone in need. I have three ways to think about serving others in ways as simple as a prayer, collecting items, or just simply writing a note while watching tv. The first is the Catholic Mobilizing Network. The Catholic Mobilizing Network or CMN works closely with USCCB, it is a founding member of the St. Joseph Mission network and is a national organization. Their mission is to end the use of the death penalty, to transform the U.S. criminal justice system from punitive to restorative through education, advocacy, and prayer. It is based on the Gospel value that all humans are created in the image of God. They believe that all should be treated with dignity. CMN also creates and distributes materials about the church's Pro-life teachings and restorative justice to be used in parishes and faith communities. These resources include radio podcasts, workshops with facilitators, parish bulletin inserts, state-specific fact sheets and so much more. Most importantly they campaign for the repeal of the death penalty. CMN also promotes prayer for the victims and the death row inmate. They have also created prayer cards, set up prayer vigils to help bring an end to the death penalty. You can go to their website [CatholicMobilizing.org](http://CatholicMobilizing.org) and sign up for emails. Since signing up I have already signed the National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty. Bishop Estevez of the Diocese of St. Augustine recently put out a pastoral letter on capital punishment in Florida, what a game-changer in what is perceived as humane. You can find his letter on the [dosaf.com](http://dosaf.com) website.

In conjunction with prisoners but a separate identity is the Order of Malta Pen Pal Program. The NCCW Service Commission has initiated a project with the Order of Malta. This program is a way to visit a prisoner without ever stepping foot in prison. It has the hope that the prisoner will feel that someone cares and gives them hope. It is done anonymously. The Order finds a prisoner who wants to be pen pals. You only use your first name and the mailbox you use is the Order of Malta. So simple, so easy, and so worthwhile. Any questions go to [maltapenpalprogram@gmail.com](mailto:maltapenpalprogram@gmail.com) and you can sign up at [www.orderofmaltafederal.org/prisonministry](http://www.orderofmaltafederal.org/prisonministry).

The third is Walking With Moms in Need: A Year of Service. The Walking with Moms in Need started on March 25, 2020 and continues till March 25, 2021. This is in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life). In honor of this anniversary, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting parishes to join this nationwide effort. As we know there are many challenges for the pregnant mom and statistics from abortion providers stated that those who chose abortion were usually poor, young, and unmarried. These moms come from all ethnic backgrounds and many have a religious affiliation. Staggeringly and almost unbelievably 24% said they are Catholic. Even though we have missed the beginning of this due to the pandemic there is still time and much to do. [Walkingwithmoms.com](http://Walkingwithmoms.com) has your parish action guide ready to go. Maybe some parishes had already kicked this off and are in standstill mode. There are 5 phases and at this time we should have just finished up phase 2. The real work comes in these next 3 phases. So much of the work is already laid out for you in the action guide it is basically a here is how to execute the program guide. I know in the Diocese of St. Augustine the Office of Human Life and Dignity had already started rolling out the program to every pastor. Every parish will be different. It is up to each parish to either create something new, give new birth to a ministry already in action or just commit to a local pregnancy help center. But when all else fails pray, pray for the moms, the mothers to be, and the success of the program. All life matters from the cradle to the grave and we as Catholics are called to promote these Gospel values.

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