

ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC WOMEN

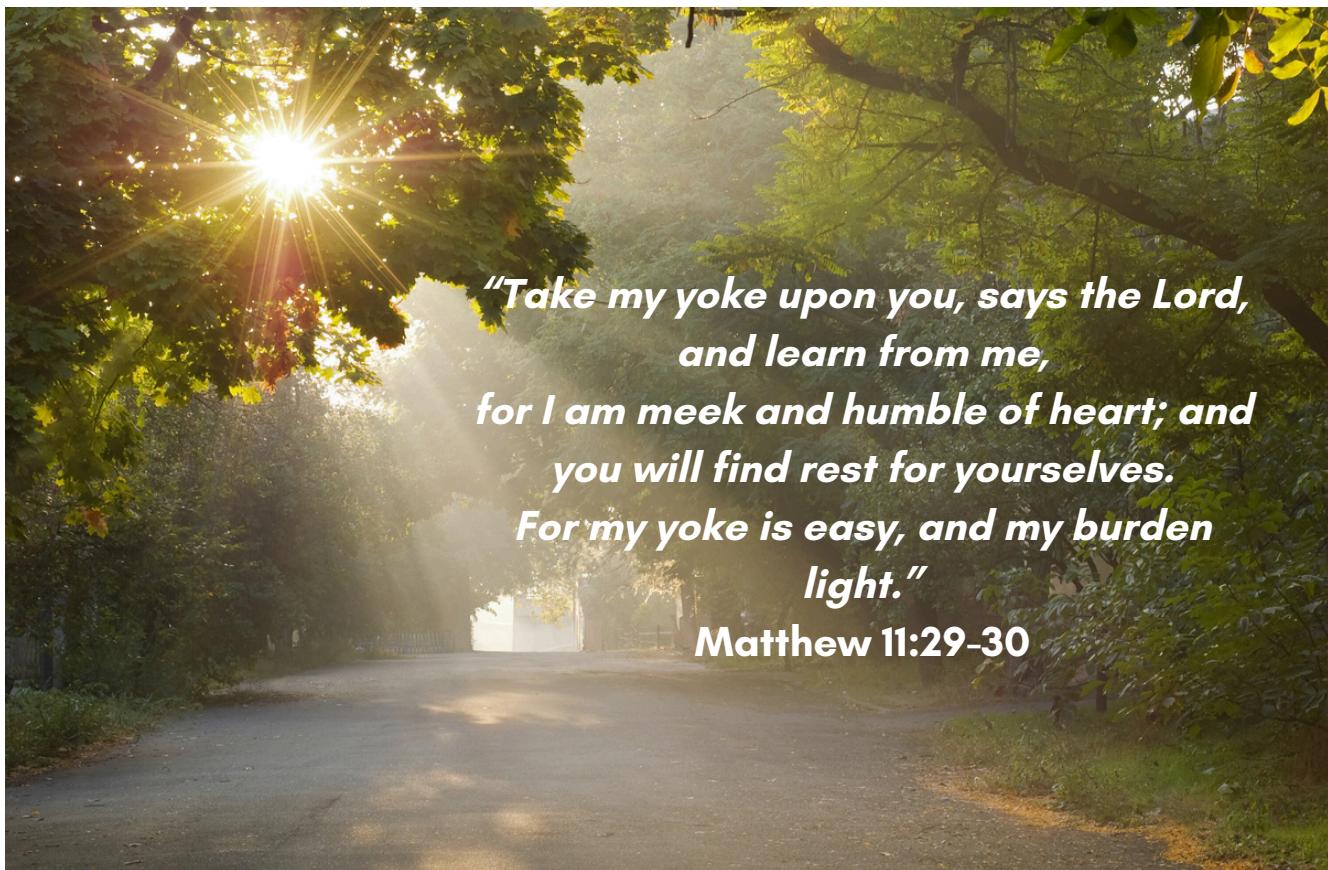


fragments

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

ODCCW Mission Statement

*To promote among our Catholic women a greater devotion to Christ and the Church,
as we share the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ
through spirituality, leadership, and service.*



*"Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart; and
you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden
light."*

Matthew 11:29-30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY COUNCIL SISTERS!

Carol Palmer, President Elect



Happy 50th Anniversary to our incredible organization! This milestone is a testament to the hard work, dedication and shared vision of the women in the diocese of Orange. For nearly 50 years we have worked diligently to promote among the Catholic Women in our diocese a greater devotion to Christ and the Church, sharing the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ through Spirituality, Leadership and Service.

The first thing we did 50 years ago was pray! We prayed for our new Bishop, new Diocese and new Women's Council. These prayers began as soon as we heard that a new diocese was being established.

Our first call to service was from our new bishop, Bishop William Johnson. He asked us to host his reception for the laity on June 20, 1976. Our council ladies found a suitable location, the Sisters of St. Joseph convent lobby, and supplied sandwiches and cookies for approximately 2,500 people! First Council President, Diane Abati, stood with Bishop Johnson shaking hands with visitors for four hours. Bishop Johnson encouraged and supported our council until his death in 1986.

Over the years, our council has been busy building women up through our general meetings, conferences and retreats; supporting our community through service to life centers and food centers; participation in legislative advocacy; working against human trafficking, and much more.

As part of our year long celebration of our council this year, we will share a photo slide show focusing on a different decade at each of our monthly meetings. We also hope to have a few surprise 'special guests' at some of our meetings and some other surprises along the way. Come and celebrate with us. You won't want to miss this!



All women in the diocese are invited to
St. Anthony Claret in Anaheim for our September Meeting

Angels with Fr. Sy Nguyen



Join us at St. Anthony Claret as Fr. Sy shares information about our heavenly messengers.

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

10:00 am Start time (check in begins at 9:45)
12:00 pm Special Opening Mass in the church
Luncheon in the hall following Mass

1450 E La Palma Ave, Anaheim, CA 92805

Cost: **\$30**; includes lunch.

Register by September 11: mail checks payable to ODCCW c/o Susan Navarrete, 14245 Utrillo Dr., Irvine, CA 92606 or contact Susan at 949-345-9130 or by email at snavarrete150@gmail.com.

www.odccw.org

JACQUELINE DOLORES BRANDON

August 10, 1936 - July 23, 2025



Jacqueline "Jackie" Dolores Brandon died peacefully in her sleep at the age of 88 in Portland, Oregon. Jackie moved to Portland in January 2024 when she realized the need to downsize from her house in Yorba Linda, CA where she had lived for over 40 years. Her commitment to her faith was undying and it was exemplified in how she showed up every single day. When Jackie moved to Yorba Linda with her husband Eddie, she quickly embraced the parish at St. Martin de Porres Church, engaging in everything from serving as a Eucharistic minister, inaugurating the Senior Citizens group, working at the annual Octoberfest, and participating in WINGS among many other activities. She volunteered her time to the Catholic community far beyond her church, including serving on boards for the Orange County Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, twice as ODCCW President, and the National Council of Catholic Women, twice as Province Director.

Jackie's faith extended far beyond her church activities. She was called to nurture and support everyone around her in any way that she could. She was a welcomed and guiding light for everyone she touched whether it was as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, friend, neighbor, fellow parishioner, or myriad volunteer roles (both in and out of the church). She was fiercely loyal to all of her loved ones and fostered many, many lifelong friendships around the world and over the course of her life.

Her bright and shining eyes were irresistible, her easy smile was both beautiful and infectious, and her strong, yet humble presence could lift any room the moment she entered. Her accomplishments are far too many to name. But here a few things we can never forget: the award winning costumes she made for her children and grandchildren; her heirloom quality Christmas tree skirts; her festive widow's holiday party; her special recipes, including apricot chicken, hot seafood dip, shrimp and corn chowder, and the holiday chantilly cream; the countless cards we all received for birthday, special occasions, and holidays; her extraordinary collection of angels; and her perpetual holiday tree. Jackie leaves a huge gap in the lives of many and we are all better people for having been a part of her life.

If you wish, you may send gifts in memory of Jackie to the National Council of Catholic Women, an organization that exemplifies the life she lived. To donate, email nccw01@nccw.org or call 703-224-0990. Be sure to mention that your donation is in honor of Jacqueline D. Brandon.

HOW DO I SAY GOOD BYE?

Carol Palmer, President Elect



I can give you the facts of her death. I can tell you when and where and how she died. I can share her obituary which details a life well lived; full of family and friends, hard work and hard play... and boy did she know how to play! But how can I say goodbye? Did she know what she meant to me? How much joy she brought to my life? We sort of adopted each other after my mom died and her daughter moved to Vietnam. I like to think it was because we needed each other but really, it was that needed her. And she knew it. She was like that. She just knew what people needed and she found a way to help them get it. She was my gentle encourager, harsh task master, adopted mother and dear friend. I pray that she knows how much I love her; how much I miss her and that she somehow finds a way to send me what I need now that she's gone.



LOVING AND GENTLE GOD PRAYER

BETH MAHONEY- NCCW PRESIDENT

Loving and Gentle God,

As Catholic women, we come to you with hearts full of gratitude for your love in our lives. We walk this path of faith guided and inspired by Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel. By her witness to your invitation to be the mother of Your Son, Jesus, we recall the incarnation and how the light illuminated the darkness.

As Catholic women, we desire to express our Yes- Our Fiat, to all that you ask of us in life. We cherish this moment of prayer with you, guided by Mary and ponder all things within our hearts.

As Catholic women, we pause to reflect on the importance of women on a journey-sharing stories. As we lift our prayers to you asking Mary to intercede for us, we trust that you hear our prayers and are with us in all that we live.

Amen



August Facts

By Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD

PRESIDENTS BORN IN AUGUST

BIRTHDAY

August 20, 1833
August 10, 1874
August 27, 1908
August 19, 1946
August 07, 1961

NAME

Benjamin Harrison
Herbert Hoover
Lyndon Baines Johnson
Bill Clinton
Barack Obama

POTUS

22nd
30th
34th
42nd
43rd



National Purple Heart Day is celebrated on August 7 and was established by President Donald J. Trump in 2025. The same day that George Washington gave the first one on August 7, 1782 and was originally known as the Badge of Military Merit.



International Left Handers Day is an international day observed annually on August 13 to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of left-handed individuals. The day was first observed in 1976 by Dean R. Campbell, founder of the Left-handers Club.



National Aviation Day is celebrated on Tuesday, August 19 honoring the development of aviation. However, in 1939, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proclaimed it in honor Orville Wright's birthday.

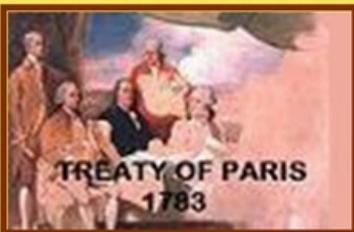


Augustus for August: After Julius's grandnephew Augustus defeated Marc Antony and Cleopatra, and became emperor of Rome, the Roman Senate decided that he too should have a month named after him. The month *Sextillus* (sex = six) was chosen for Augustus, and the senate justified its actions in the following resolution: Whereas the Emperor Augustus Caesar, in the month of Sextillis . . . thrice entered the city in triumph . . . and in the same month Egypt was brought under the authority of the Roman people, and in the same month an end was put to the civil wars; and whereas for these reasons the said month is, and has been, most fortunate to this empire, it is hereby decreed by the senate that the said month shall be called Augustus.

SEPTEMBER

Interesting Facts

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD



[Revolutionary War](#) in America, Treaty of Paris, signed September 3, 1783



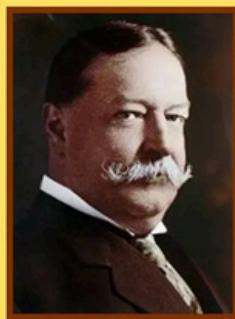
The U.S. [Constitution](#) signed on September 17, 1787



Labor Day was declared a legal holiday and first celebrated on September 3, 1894



During the attack on Fort McHenry, [Francis Scott Key](#) wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" on September 14, 1814



William Taft, 27th POTUS
Born September 15, 1857
Only President to serve on the Supreme Court from 1921-1930

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States.

The Social Security Act (1935)

- Monthly payment to retired senior citizens
- Provide money to the unemployed
- Help disabled



World War II: The Home Front

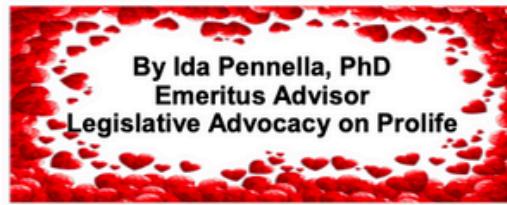
Selective Service Act of 1940



FDR signs the Selective Service Act into law

- First peacetime draft in U.S.
- All men aged 21-35 required to register; later 18-65
- Required men picked for duty to serve 12 months
- Service in the U.S. or its possessions

[Selective Service Act](#) aka military draft passed on September 16, 1940



New Poll Shows Gains in Pro-Life Sentiment

By Michael J. New | July 25, 2025

On Thursday, the Associated Press and the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research released the results of a poll of over 1,400 adults in mid-July. The findings contain good news for pro-lifers.

The results indicate that the percentage of adults who think abortion should be illegal in "all cases" or "most cases" increased by seven percentage points since June 2024. Overall, this AP/NORC poll reports the highest level of pro-life sentiment since the leak of the *Dobbs* decision in May 2022.

This poll has received coverage from a number of media outlets including *The Hill*, *The Guardian*, and PBS. Read more at <https://nrlc.org/nrlnewstoday/2025>

###

National Right to Life Joins Pope Leo XIV in Commending the Work of the Knights of Columbus

WASHINGTON | August 5, 2025 – As the Knights of Columbus begin their 143rd Supreme Convention, National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) joins Pope Leo XIV in commending the pro-life work of the Knights of Columbus.

In his video greeting to the Knights of Columbus gathered in Washington, D.C. for their convention, Pope Leo XIV said, "I commend your efforts to bring together men in your communities for prayer, formation, and fraternity, as well as the many charitable efforts of your local Councils throughout the world. In particular, your generous service to vulnerable populations, including the unborn, pregnant mothers, children..."

Read more at <https://nrlc.org/nrlnewstoday/2025>

Heartbeat International members ...

By Grace Porto



CV NEWS FEED // More than 1,600 leaders, medical professionals, and advocates from 44 states and more than 20 countries gathered in Birmingham, Alabama, last week for Heartbeat International's annual conference, the largest of its kind in the world.

The pro-life workers came together "to educate one another, share encouraging projects, and craft strategies for countering a worldwide culture of death," according to the *Washington Stand*. Read more at <https://catholicvote.org>

###

She Refused To Have An Abortion At 17, Now 31 Years Later Her Son is World Famous Justin Bieber



At 17, Pattie Bieber, was overwhelmed by trauma and despair, Pattie attempted suicide. She spent time in a mental institution, where she underwent Christian conversion therapy. After being released, she reconnected with Jeremy—and soon discovered she was pregnant. On March 1, 1994, Justin Bieber was born in London, Ontario. That tiny heartbeat gave her a new reason to fight. Source: bit.ly/3GxgQVh

###

NOTE: The NCCW Legislative Advocacy Committee is under the Spirituality Commission and is guided by Catholic Social Teaching. 1) **Abortion:** opposes abortion and infanticide, includes ProLife issues and legislation, 2) **Human rights:** Includes human dignity, domestic violence, human trafficking and opposes genocide, 3) **Women's health:** screening for osteoporosis and routine health care, and 4) **Equal opportunities:** minimum wage, social security, and health insurance.



Congressman Celebrates End of Biden Era Policy That Killed Babies in Abortions
By Rachel Quackenbush | Aug. 5, 2025

Washington, DC - Congressman Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chair of the House Pro-Life Caucus, publicly welcomed the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) decision to reverse a Biden-era regulation that had allowed taxpayer-funded abortions at VA hospitals.

In a [statement](#) issued Aug. 1, Smith commended President Trump and VA Secretary Doug Collins for what he called a restoration of "humane" and lawful standards.

"In reversing the Biden Administration's VA abortion policy," Smith said, "President Trump and Secretary Collins both honor the will of the American people, who do not support their taxpayer dollars paying for abortions, and affirm that VA healthcare facilities are places to heal, not violently end the lives of unborn children through the grisly act of abortion." Read more at <https://www.lifenews.com>

Big Abortion has been defunded for the first time ever!



Thank you, President Trump, Speaker Johnson and Leader Thune!

Pro-Life
Promise Made



Pro-Life
Promise Kept



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House Passes Bill Reversing Biden Policy Turning VA Clinics Into Abortion Centers
By Steven Ertelt | June 25, 2025

Washington, DC - Today the House passed Republicans' 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies funding bill that reverses a pro-abortion policy Joe Biden implemented that turned VA clinics into abortion centers.

Federal law authorizes the VA to provide certain health services to women veterans **but explicitly excludes abortion**. Federal regulation previously complied with the law and prohibited VA from killing babies in abortions and abortion counseling in its medical benefits package. Read more at <https://www.lifenews.com>

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Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD | Emeritus Advisor, Legislative Advocacy

"Hunger is real for 1 in 5 of your neighbors! Take action to do something about it."

Are you 'hungry' for God? September is "Hungry Action Month". When we hunger for God, we can serve Him by easing the human hunger of others.

How are you called to serve God? Feeding the hungry, one of the Corporal Works of Mercy as seen in Matthew 25:31-46. It is a good way to get started serving God and His people. Does your parish have a food program or food bank? If not, consider partnering with St. Vincent De Paul, or Second Harvest.

Here are some ways to feed the hungry, according to the website, <http://feedoc.org>, the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, Society of St. Vincent De Paul, is a member of Feeding America, and stated that *September is hunger action month. Second Harvest provides food to Catholic and non-Catholic centers on designated days and times.

Perhaps you could organize an on-going program at your parish. Plan a food drive or establish a distribution center at your church. One of the parishes that I occasionally attend for Mass, Beatitudes of Our Lord, has such a program called, Good Sam's Pantry. A basket is placed in the foyer of the church with a list of preferred food for people to donate on a daily basis. Every Thursday, for one hour, the poor of the community go to the hall where dedicated servers have bagged the food for distribution. This parish program is not assisted by St. Vincent De Paul or any other agency.

Are you ready to make a difference and serve God through feeding the hungry? Make a commitment during the month of September and do something.

Sources:

National Catholic Register, Jubilee 2025 <https://safoodbank.org/hunger-action-month-take-action-2/>

PRAY FOR PRIESTS CALENDAR

9-1	Fr. Salvador	Landa	Blessed Sacrament Church	14072 Olive Street, Westminster, CA 92683
9-2	Fr. Ignatius	Lau	Retired	c/o Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1100 S Center St., Santa Ana, CA 92704
9-3	Fr. Duy	Le	San Francisco Solano Church	22082 Antonio Pkwy, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
9-4	Fr. John	Le Vecke	Retired	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
9-5	Fr. Eugene	Lee	St. Thomas More Church	51 Marketplace, Irvine, CA 92602
9-6	Fr. Carlos	Leon	Immaculate Heart of Mary	1100 S Center St., Santa Ana, CA 92704
9-7	Fr. Francis	Li	St. Thomas More Church	51 Marketplace, Irvine, CA 92602
9-8	Fr. Claude	Lombardo	St. Nicholas Church	24252 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637
9-9	Fr. Brandon	Lopez	St. Kilian Church	26872 Estanciero Drive, Mission Viejo, CA, 92691
9-10	Fr. Manuel	López	St. Angela Merici Church	585 S. Walnut Ave, Brea, CA 92821
9-11	Fr. Antonio	Lopez-Flores	Our Lady of Fatima Church	105 N La Esperanza, San Clemente, CA 92672
9-12	Fr. Rafael	Luevano	Pastoral Center	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
9-13	Fr. Carlos	Luy	La Purisima Church	11712 Hewes St, Orange, CA 92869
9-14	Fr. Paw	Lwin	Holy Trinity	1600 Corporate Dr, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694
9-15	Msgr. Justin	MacCarthy	Retired	900 W La Habra Blvd, La Habra, CA 90631
9-16	Fr. Miguel	Macias	St. Anne, Santa Ana	1344 S. Main St., Santa Ana, CA 92707
9-17	Fr. Jake	Mackowicz		c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
9-18	Fr. Khai-Hon	Mai	Retired	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
9-19	Fr. Fredy	Mancilla Rangel	St. Joachim Church	1964 Orange Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627
9-20	Fr. Greg	Marquez	Immaculate Heart of Mary	1100 S Center St., Santa Ana, CA 92704
9-21	Fr. Guillermo	Martinez	St. Justin Martyr	2050 West Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804
9-22	Fr. Pablo	Martinez	Visiting	c/o Ministry to Priests Office, 13280 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
9-23	Fr. Matthew	Maxwell	San Francisco Solano	22082 Antonio Pkwy, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
9-24	Msgr. Michael	McKiernan	Mission Basilica SJ Capistrano	31520 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
9-25	Fr. Gaston	Mendiola-Arroyo	Our Lady of Guadalupe	900 W La Habra Blvd, La Habra, CA 90631
9-26	Fr. Diego	Menniti	St. Kilian	26872 Estanciero Drive, Mission Viejo, CA, 92691
9-27	Fr. John	Monesterio	Retired	c/o St. Justin Martyr, 2050 West Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804
9-28	Fr. John	Moneypenny	St. Norbert Church	300 E Taft Ave, Orange, CA 92865
9-29	Fr. Florante	Moren, AM	Chaplain, Santa Margarita HS	22062 Antonio Pkwy, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 9268
9-30	Fr. David	Moreno	St. Cecilia Church	1301 Sycamore Ave, Tustin, CA 92780