



Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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Your Eminence/Excellency:

When the body of bishops voted in November 2013 to continue the *Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty*, it was with the recognition of the initiative's adaptability to current events. For example, we have highlighted special moments like the *National Day of Prayer for Peace in our Communities* and dedicated nine weeks of prayer for the last general election.

Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy's announcement that he will retire provides us with yet another occasion requiring focused prayer. With renewed vigor, pro-abortion groups are lobbying our Senators to reject any nominee who does not promise to endorse *Roe v. Wade*. The Conference does not support or oppose the confirmation of any presidential nominee, but we can raise grave concerns about a confirmation process which is being grossly distorted by efforts to subject judicial nominees to a litmus test of support for *Roe v. Wade*.

Given this historic moment, from Friday, August 3, 2018 – Friday, September 28, 2018, the weekly Call to Prayer, which is sent to thousands of participants, will ask our people to pray that our nation move closer to the day when every human being is protected in law and welcomed in life.

In addition to the current invitation to fast on Fridays, participants will be encouraged to pray one *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory Be* for this intention and will receive important facts about how *Roe is not health care, is bad law, and fails women*.

I invite you to join me in urging our people to pray for all matters of justice and that these nine weeks of prayer may lead towards the end of the bleak reign of *Roe* in our country. Additional Call to Prayer materials will soon be accessible at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/call-to-prayer/legal-protection-of-human-life.cfm>. New participants can sign up at www.usccb.org/pray for this and subsequent Call to Prayer initiatives via email or text message.

Thank you for your continued, prayerful leadership.

Fraternally in Christ,

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
Chairman
Committee on Pro-Life Activities