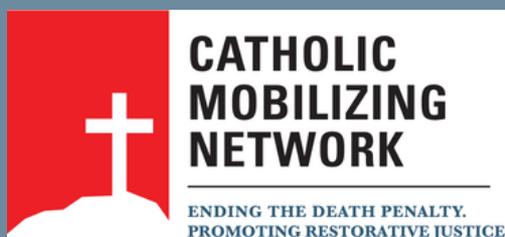


CATHOLIC MOBILIZING NETWORK

Building a Culture of Life
Ending the Death
Penalty

RESPECT LIFE MONTH TOOLKIT



Respect Life Month Toolkit



**CATHOLIC
MOBILIZING
NETWORK**

ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY.
PROMOTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.

Beginning on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October, our nation's Catholics will be called to renew their personal commitment to defend ALL human life.

Catholic teaching on the death penalty begins with the recognition that the dignity of the human person applies to everyone. It affirms our commitment to comfort and support victims and their families, to protect citizens, while acknowledging the God-given dignity of every human life, even those who do great harm.

Respect for truly innocent human life can be enhanced by respecting the essential worth of people convicted of capital crimes. Every refusal to kill affirms the dignity of all human life.

This Respect Life Month Toolkit is designed to assist your parish, school, or community consider the sanctity of all life with regards to the issue of the death penalty. In the words of our bishops, "We seek to help build a culture of life in which our nation will no longer try to teach that killing is wrong by killing those who kill. This cycle of violence diminishes all of us."

To view our full catalogue of helpful resources and tools for your pro-life work to end the death penalty and promote restorative justice, please visit: catholicsmobilizing.org

Who is Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN)?

Working in close collaboration with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and living the mission of the Congregation of St. Joseph, Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization that proclaims the Church's pro-life teaching and prepares Catholics for informed involvement in the public debate to end the death penalty and promote restorative justice.



@CMNEndtheDeathPenalty



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Photo by: Scott Langley



**CATHOLIC
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Educate

Catholic teaching offers a unique perspective on crime and punishment. It begins with the recognition that the dignity of the human person applies to both victims and offenders, even those who do great harm. We believe all life is a gift from God that must be respected from conception to natural death.

The following resources are designed to educate the faithful on Church teaching as well as the social justice issues that surround the reality of the United States death penalty system. They draw upon, scripture, the catechism, statements of popes and bishops, stories of those whose lives have been touched by the death penalty and current statistics.

Journey of Faith Workshop

With this comprehensive resource, you don't need to be an expert to explore the death penalty issue in your school, parish, or community. Use our beautiful Prezi presentation and slide-by-slide Facilitator Guide to explore the Church's teaching on the sanctity of all life and the social justice issues that surround the death penalty. The presentation contains videos and quotes featuring Church leaders, murder victim family members, death row defendants, and prison officials.



Built in interactive activities engage your audience who are invited to follow along in the Participant Guide, a take-away resource which includes answers to tough questions and how to get involved in ending the use of the death penalty and promoting a culture of life.

[Click here to download this workshop.](#)

Catholic Social Teaching & The Death Penalty Guide

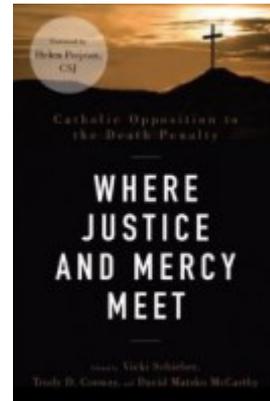


The Catholic Social Teaching & the Death Penalty guide examines the Death Penalty through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. You can print this out and use it as an education tool in meetings and workshops, or use it as a fact sheet for parishioners.

To download this guide, [click here.](#)

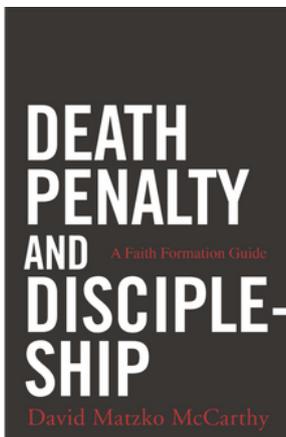
CMN's Award Winning Book: Where Justice and Mercy Meet

Where Justice and Mercy Meet: Catholic Opposition to the Death Penalty is CMN's award winning book that comprehensively explores the Catholic stance against capital punishment. The stories of real people whose lives have been touched by the death penalty are woven throughout the book which explores scripture, Church teaching and the realities and consequences of the modern death penalty system.



[Click here for ordering information.](#)

Death Penalty & Discipleship: A Faith Formation Guide



Death Penalty and Discipleship is a concise faith formation resource to help communities and individuals reflect more deeply on capital punishment. Particularly recommended for parish social justice committees or book clubs, *Death Penalty and Discipleship* incorporates Scripture, Catholic social teaching, and contemporary issues that focus on the meaning of God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and the implications of God's redemptive work in our lives.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Death Penalty ¡En español! Podcast Series



Working with journalist Andrea Acosta, CMN's Sr. Ilaria Buonriposi produces a weekly podcast addressing the Church's position on the death penalty or restorative justice. The podcast format makes the program suitable for use in various ways, it can be included in radio programs, on livestreams, on websites and in social media. Distributed to over 150 Hispanic Catholic radio stations, CMN's unconditional pro-life message can now reach millions of people

[Click here for a full listing of Spanish Podcasts.](#)

Catholic Social Teaching & the Death Penalty Bulletin Articles

Help to educate your parish or community with this set of 6 short bulletin articles focusing on Catholic Social Teaching and the Death Penalty. The articles cover different aspects of the Catholic Social Teaching as it applies to the death penalty. These articles can also be customized to include upcoming events and meetings occurring in your parish or community.

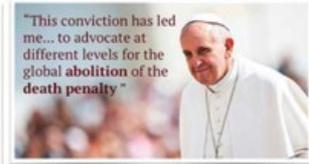
[Click here to download these articles.](#)

JUSTICE AND MERCY

Retaining the End of the Death Penalty in Nebraska

Archbishop Lucas

"Public safety can be assured through other means. And justice requires punishment, but it does not require that those who have committed capital crimes be put to death"
March 15th, 2015
Nebraska Bishops'



"This conviction has led me... to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty"
Catholic Teaching on Life and the Death Penalty

Death Penalty Infographics and Printouts

Use these infographics and one-sheet printouts on social media or as handouts in your parish, school, or community.

[Standing for Life](#)

[Safer Communities](#)

[Death Penalty Facts](#)

Advocate

Advocacy is a way to promote public policy that upholds the sacredness of all life and supports the common good. The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of participation in our government but how do we make our voice heard? The parish community is a great forum for organizing and making an impact.

Your voice is an important one; you do not need to be an expert to speak about the immorality of the death penalty.

The National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty

CMN's National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty encourages ALL people of good will to educate, advocate, and pray for the end of the death penalty. Join advocates and leaders like Sr. Helen Prejean, Fr. Jim Martin SJ, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, and many more who have already taken the Pledge! Sign today, and CMN will give you the tools you need to fulfill this faithful commitment.



[Click here to sign the Pledge.](#)

Sign up for CMN's Mercy in Action Project

CMN's Mercy in Action Project seeks to promote clemency for those facing imminent execution. By joining the Mercy in Action Project you will receive monthly alerts with information on upcoming executions and tools to advocate for clemency in those cases as well as prayerful resources. Including one click letter and powerful prayer tools, Mercy in Action will allow to take a stand for life!



[Click here to sign up for CMN's Mercy in Action Project.](#)

CMN's Interactive State Pages



Explore CMN's interactive state pages and learn the latest updates on the death penalty in your state. From local organizations and upcoming events, to legislative actions and upcoming executions, our state pages will keep you informed on the latest developments in the work to end the death penalty

To find your state page, [click here.](#)

Respect Life Social Media Resources

CMN has prepared some social media tools to help spread, to assist you in your efforts to advocate for the dignity of ALL life. We've created several suggested tweets and social media graphics for use on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Created to lift up these efforts during Respect Life Month, these social media tools can be adjusted and used anytime to help amplify the call to end the death penalty.



A Selection of our Sample Tweets:

#DeathPenalty shamefully denies the dignity of ALL life. We must be #ProMercy #ProJustice #ProLife and end this broken system of justice.

Jesus calls us to be a people of #life not death. It's time to #EndTheDeathPenalty! #RespectLifeMonth #ProLife #ProMercy

[Click here to get the full list of Social Media Resources.](#)

Pray

The culture of life we seek is built on a foundation of prayer. CMN holds prayer as a vital part of our call to build a culture of life and end the death penalty. The following resources include prayer tools and reflection resources to enable you to prayerfully discern the call to uphold the dignity of all life.

A Prayer Vigil for an Execution

Intended for use before or on the day of an execution, CMN's Prayer Vigil for an Execution calls all to reflect on the themes of forgiveness and mercy in the face of the death penalty. Inviting us to lift up the dignity of all life and pray for those impacted by violence, this vigil serves to deepen our commitment to the work to end the death penalty.



[Click here to download the Vigil.](#)

Sample Prayers of the Faithful for Respect Life Month

These sample prayers of the faithful center on our call to be a people of life and the work to end the death penalty. Perfect for Respect Life Month or anytime of the year, these prayers of the faithful call all to be advocates for ALL life!

[Click here to download the Prayers of the Faithful.](#)

Sample Prayers of the Faithful for Respect Life Month

Priest: Loving Father, we pray for your blessing and assistance in helping us build a culture of life.

Lector: For Pope Francis and those in leadership within the Church, as they work to end a culture of death and promote a culture of life. Give them strength as they work to end all that which threatens the God-given dignity and value of human life. We pray, **God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

For lawmakers and elected officials. May your spirit of love and compassion transform their hearts and inspire them to place the needs of human life above all. We pray, **God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

For all those impacted by violent crime and acts of grave harm. May all the victims of crime and their families know your healing power and be transformed by your mercy. We pray, **God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

For all those on death row awaiting execution, and those lives we have lost to the death penalty. May they know your unending love and forgiveness as children of God. We pray, **God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

For all the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts May we know the comfort of God's love. We pray, **God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

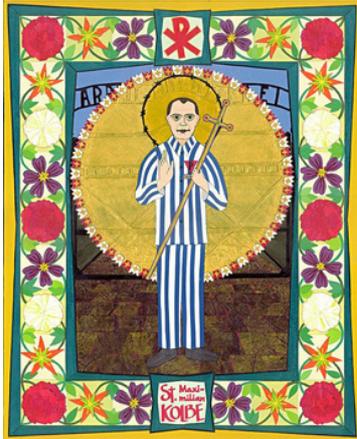
Priest: God of Compassion, through the guidance of your Holy Spirit, we will be your witnesses proclaiming that every human life is precious and created by you. We pray in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.



www.catholicmobilizing.org

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St. Maximilian Kolbe Prayer Service



This prayer service focus on the life and ministry of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the patron saint of prisoners and the pro-life movement. This prayer service lifts up the work of all pro-life advocates and highlights in a particular way the call we have to lift up the dignity of all life and work to end the use of the death penalty.

To download the full Prayer Service, click here.

Prayer to End the Death Penalty Prayer Cards in Spanish

Download and print this set of 4 prayer cards with the USCCB's Prayer to End the Death Penalty in Spanish, "*Oración para Abolir la Pena de Muerte.*" Use these to handout at your parish after Sunday mass or after an educational event.



Click here to download the prayer cards.

Holy Hour of Mercy



The culture of life we seek is built on a foundation of prayer. The Holy Hour of Mercy is a resource that guides you through an hour of praying for life and an end to the death penalty. Prayers in this hour include the St. Michael Prayer, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, and a Litany for Life. This guided holy hour can be used to lead a group in a prayer service for and an end to the Death Penalty or can be used by an individual during a personal holy hour.

Click here to download the Holy Hour of Mercy



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