



Standing for Life

Our Catholic Faith and the Death Penalty

"The dignity of life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform."
-The Gospel of Life



"No matter how heinous the crime, the offender retains their God given worth..."

-St. Pope John Paul II
January 27, 1999



"Society's leaders should make every effort to eliminate the death penalty."

-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
November 19th, 2011



"Nowadays the death penalty is inadmissible, no matter how serious the crime committed."

-Pope Francis
March 20th, 2015

"By the time Shannon's murderer was captured four years later, we had learned that pursuing the death penalty would not be the way we would want to honor our daughter's life, nor would that decision have helped us deal with the painful reminders of her unfulfilled hopes and dreams... Facing the reality of her death made us realize that the sacredness of life was not an abstract concept. We took the stand to oppose the use of capital punishment for our daughter's murder."

— **Vicki Schieber, mother of murdered daughter, Shannon**