



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Repeal the Federal Death Penalty

The first 100 days of a new administration speak to the priorities of the ensuing work. There are a number of things of critical importance to the wellbeing of our country, the world, and its people. We don't have to list them for you. But one issue on the table at this moment speaks to the dignity of human life which is the basis of all our efforts – the death penalty.

After a 17-year hiatus, 13 people have been executed in our country since July 2020. “According to the [Death Penalty Information Center](#), 70 percent of the world's nations have abolished the death penalty because it violates internationally recognized human rights. Unfortunately, the United States is not among them. The U.S. joins countries such as China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran and South Korea in continuing to put offenders to death. In the United States, the death penalty disproportionately impacts persons of color, who are much more likely to face execution than white offenders.”
(Sisters of Mercy Justice Team)

In 2018 the Vatican [Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#) officially revised the Catechism of the Catholic Church to declare that “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,” and stated that the Church works with determination for abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes... Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes... Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person” and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide. -
- Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2267 August 2, 2018.

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