

ALL LIFE IS SACRED

During Right to Life month, Archbishop Tobin in his letter to the people of the Indianapolis Archdiocese wrote: "All life is sacred, especially the lives of those who are most vulnerable – the aged, infirm, disabled and unborn. All life is sacred, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. (Consistent with the Catholic Social Justice Principle: "Respect for Human Life".) All life is sacred even the lives of heinous criminals, terrorists and psychopathic killers. All life is sacred. Period."

"In society today-and even in the Church-we too often look for exceptions to this rock solid principle of our Christian faith. Sure, we believe life is sacred, but aren't there times when we have to soften our stance?" Archbishop Tobin's response: "Any time a human life is taken, the sanctity of life is diminished. All Life is Sacred. All life is sacred. All life is sacred. All life is sacred (holy, of God)."

"Pope Francis strongly affirms the pro-life teachings of the Church, but he does not stop there. **He urges us to go to the peripheries, to the margins of society, where the poor, the outcast and the most vulnerable are huddled together.**"

Just recently Pope Francis expressed his thoughts on the Death Penalty. The Catholic Church has always spoken out against the Death Penalty. He called it an offense against the inviolability of life and the dignity of the human person, which contradicts God's plan for man and society, and his merciful justice. The pope says that "It does not render justice to the victims, but rather fosters vengeance." He expressed that because the administration of the Death Penalty takes so long, it is no longer for a current act of aggression, but rather for an act in the past. The pope also addressed the questions of the method of executions and how some say they have to find ways of '**getting it right**'. '**Getting it Right**' could be by Lethal injection (used the most), Electrocuting, Gas Chamber, Hanging, Firing Squad). DPIC But there is no humane way of killing a person."

In 2001, we wrote and approved a Corporate Stance against the Death Penalty:

We, the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, strongly oppose the death penalty as contrary to the Gospel and to our particular Franciscan call to peacemaking and justice for the poor.

We affirm that all lives, both innocent and guilty, are sacred and worthy of protection. We know that the state's use of capital punishment adds to the violence within our society. We hold that its use falls disproportionately on the poor, the uneducated, and the mentally disabled, and is marked by the racism and prejudice which pervades our society.

We commit ourselves to prayer and action for the abolition of the death penalty wherever it exists. We pledge ourselves to prayer, support, and appropriate action for those whose loved ones have been victims of violent crimes, for those who commit such crimes, and for their families. We promote effective and humane alternatives to the death penalty. June 24, 2001

Death Penalty Facts from Death Penalty Information Center(DPIC) www.deathpenaltyinfo.org

- Number of executions since Death Penalty reinstated in 1976: 1,429;
- Most in the year 1998 (98); least in the last 10 years 2015;
- Since 1973, over 150 people have been released from death row with evidence of innocence;
- A 2010 poll by Lake Research Partners found that 61% of voters would choose a punishment other than the death penalty for murder

