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NEWS RELEASE

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INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE FOR AN END TO THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY ON NOVEMBER 30, 2016

St. Petersburg, FL: The Diocese of St. Petersburg invites the media to attend an Interfaith Prayer Service for an End to the Use of the Death Penalty.

The World Day of Cities for Life/Cities against the Death Penalty takes place on November 30. On this date, cities across the world mobilize to renounce the death penalty and work for a more civil form of justice. The Diocese of St. Petersburg will join in this international campaign by celebrating an Interfaith Prayer Service at **5:30 PM on Wednesday, November 30, 2016** at **Joe Chillura Courthouse Square Park**, (400-498 E Twiggs St, Tampa). The service will be celebrated by Msgr. Robert Morris, Vicar General of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer of the Florida Council of Churches, Rabbi Jason Rosenberg of Congregation Beth Am in Tampa, Rev. Kim Wells of Lakewood United Church of Christ in St. Petersburg, and Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson of First United Church of Christ in Tampa. Guest speaker will be Allison Ferber-Miller, Assistant Public Defender of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

“It is important that this service be Interfaith,” said Rev. Robert Schneider, Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the Diocese of St. Petersburg. “Our concern about the morality of the death penalty transcends different religious traditions. While we are concerned about the victims of violent crime, we are also concerned about the perpetrators. We need to reexamine the death penalty in light of modern psychology and the need for prison reform.”

For questions about the service, please contact Sabrina Schultz at 727-344-1611.

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