

Guidelines for Preaching or Teaching Regarding the Death Penalty

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1. Set the tone....the Friday or week before Holy Week might be a good opportunity as we reflect on the death of Jesus through Capital Punishment
2. Immediately mention our compassion for the victims of crime and those who are left behind....many people feel that being opposed to the Death Penalty means we don't understand the suffering of affected families.
3. Reflect on the Scripture Readings....use the ones of the day if in the context of the Eucharist...or pick others more appropriate if not in that context.
4. Introduce specific Catholic teaching. Use the catechism and papal pronouncements as a basic source. Pope Francis sent a message regarding the Death Penalty to the Fifth World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Madrid, Spain.
5. Close with a prayer for families who have lost loved ones through crimes and also pray for those on Death Row and their families.