



CITIES FOR LIFE/CITIES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

November 30 is the World Day of Cities for Life/Cities Against the Death Penalty. On this date, cities across the world mobilize to renounce the death penalty and work for a more civil form of justice. *In the State of Florida, 29 people have been exonerated from death row (more than any other state) and 99 people have been put to death since executions resumed in the 1970's. 349 people await execution on Florida's death row.* Congregations are invited to toll their bells at 6 pm on November 30 and leave the lights on in the Church overnight as a sign of solidarity. Parishes are also invited to utilize the *Prayer to End the Use of the Death Penalty* and Prayer of the Faithful for Masses on November 30/December 1. A sample bulletin announcement can also be found below. Please direct questions to Sabrina Schultz, sab@dosp.org; 813-246-6916.

PRAYER TO END THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

Merciful Father, we ask your blessing on all we do to build a culture of life. Hear our prayers for those impacted by the death penalty.

We pray for all people, that their lives and dignity as children of a loving God may be respected and protected in all stages and circumstances.

We pray for victims of violence and their families, that they may experience our love and support and find comfort in your compassion and in the promise of eternal life.

We pray for those on death row, that their lives may be spared, that the innocent may be freed and that the guilty may come to acknowledge their faults and seek reconciliation with you.

We pray for the families of those who are facing execution, that they may be comforted by your love and compassion.

We pray for civic leaders, that they may commit themselves to respecting every human life and ending the use of the death penalty in our land.

Compassionate Father, give us wisdom and hearts filled with your love. Guide us as we work to end the use of the death penalty and to build a society that truly chooses life in all situations.

We ask this Father through your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

On this World Day of Cities for Life/Cities Against the Death Penalty, we pray for an end to the use of the death penalty as a response to violence. May the merciful love of God convert the violent and bring healing to those who have lost loved ones through violent crimes.

We pray to the Lord.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT:

Cities for Life, Cities Against the Death Penalty – Cities around the world will observe a time of prayer for the end of the use of the death penalty on Saturday, November 30. Many churches will toll their bells at 6:00 p.m. that day to encourage the community to pause for a moment of silence and prayer. Some parishes will leave the lights on in their Sanctuary overnight as a sign of hope and solidarity. Learn more about the Death Penalty by visiting <https://www.dosp.org/life/resourcesdeathpenalty/> For additional resources, contact Sabrina Burton Schultz at 727-343-1611 *5325.