

Florida Faith Leaders Call for Clemency for James Dailey

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of the State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We write to you as an interfaith community, with a shared belief in the dignity of all human life, asking you to grant James Dailey clemency, and commute his sentence to life in prison.

We understand that the Clemency Commission under Governor Scott declined to recommend Mr. Dailey's case for a hearing on clemency relief, nearly four years ago. In the last four years, a significant amount of evidence has come to light suggesting that Mr. Dailey is innocent of the crime for which he is to be put to death. We encourage you to take a deeper look at this troubling case, and at the very least give Mr. Dailey full consideration in a new clemency proceeding.

Clemency is defined as "mercy." What is merciful - to both the family of Shelly Boggio, and to James Dailey and his family - is to at least fully explore that the man who is responsible for her death is the one paying the ultimate price for the crime. We continue to pray for healing for the family of Ms. Boggio. It does not seem just, or merciful, that Jack Percy, the man who has repeatedly confessed to being single handedly responsible for Ms. Boggio's death, is serving a life sentence in prison, with parole eligibility, while Mr. Dailey awaits his imminent execution.

In a state that leads the country in death row exonerations, certainly not a proud statistic, we cannot risk that this, potentially Florida's 100th execution, is also ultimately Florida's 30th exoneration. Mr. Dailey is a veteran and he honorably served our country during three tours in Vietnam and one in Korea. At a minimum, we owe him a thorough review of his case before making an irreversible mistake.

Governor DeSantis, please search your heart and direct your administration to conduct a full and fair review through the clemency process. After considering all of new evidence, and the disparate sentence that Jack Percy received, we urge you to grant Mr. Dailey clemency, and commute his sentence to life in prison.

Sincerely,

Deacon Edmond Anctil
Mary Help of Christians Parish, Tampa

Deacon Peter Andre, Director of Prison Ministry
Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo
GreenFaith

Adele Azar Rucquoi
Author

Dr. Walter E. Barker
United Church of Christ

Deacon Eugene Beil
St. Michael the Archangel, Clearwater

Fr. Kenneth Breen, O.deM
St. Petersburg

Rev. Emily Bridges Bell
Lakewood United Church of Christ, St. Petersburg

Sabrina Burton Schultz, Director of Life Justice and Advocacy Ministry
Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Rev. Dr. Sally Campbell-Evans
Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Tampa

Deacon John Carter
Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Deacon Tom Casey
St Frances X Cabrini, Spring Hill

Dr. Brant S. Copeland
First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Tallahassee

Deacon Jose M. Cruz
St Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Spring Hill

Rev. J. Glenn Diaz
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Homosassa

Rev. Mr. Edward FX Dodenhoff
Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Rev. Chuck Dornquast
Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Rev. Leslie Etheredge
United Church of Christ Regional Minister

Deacon Michael Federico
Prince of Peace Parish, Jacksonville

David Flynn, Respect Life Coordinator
St. Elizabeth Seaton Church, Palm Coast

Ms. Karen Gerard, Business Manager
St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, Land O Lakes

Mrs. Iris M. Gomez
National Council of Catholic Women

Rev. Jon Hall
Incarnation, Tallahassee

Deacon Lowell "Corkey" Hecht
Roman Catholic Diocese of St Augustine

Thomas Heid, Prison Ministry
St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Petersburg

Deacon Frank Henriquez
St Paul Church, Tampa

Deanna Herbst
Catholic Charities of Palm Beach

Deacon James Ben Hooks
St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Tampa

Susanne Houff
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Community, Tallahassee

Deacon Scott Huang
Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Stephen Jens-Rochow
River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Davie

Deacon Christopher Jensen
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pinellas Park FL

Fr. Bruce King, I.C.
St. Theresa Parish, Spring Hill

Deacon Paul Koppie
St. Michael the Archangel, Clearwater FL

Deacon Joseph Krzanowski
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Tampa

Kevin Long, Minister
Tallahassee

Miss Catherine Mandalinich
Holy Cross Catholic Church, St. Petersburg

Deacon Mark Manko
Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Mary Matheus
National Council of Catholic Women

Isaac C. McCullough, Executive Pastor
Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church

Deacon Felix Mejia
St. Clement, Plant City

Deacon Michael Menchen
St. Mary, Our Lady of Grace, St. Petersburg

Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer, Executive Director
Florida Council of Churches

Deacon James Minary
St James Catholic Church, Port Richey

Rev. Craig Morley, Pastor
Holy Family Catholic Church, St. Petersburg

Msgr. Michael Muhr
St. Brendan Catholic Church, St. Petersburg

Viet Nguyen, Pastor
Holy Martyrs of Vietnam Parish, St. Petersburg

Fr. Alexander Tadeo Padilla, II
Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle / Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Deacon Scott Paine
St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, Tampa

Most Reverend Gregory Parkes, Bishop
Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Msgr. Juanita Perez
Christ Fellowship Church, Stuart

Sister Evelyn Piche
Barry University

Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson
First United Church of Christ, Tampa

The Rev. Paul A. Rasmus
Grace Episcopal Church of West Palm Beach

Gene Rasmussen
Respect Life Ministry Leader, Cape Canaveral

Fr. Patrick Rebel
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Spring Hill

Sister Judith Rimbey
Cardinal Newman High School and St. Ann Parish, West Palm Beach

Rev. Susan Rogers
The Well at Springfield, Jacksonville

Bishop Steven M. Rosczewski
Synodal Catholic Diocese of the Southeast

Rabbi Jason Rosenberg
Congregation Beth Am, Tampa

Margarita Ruiz, OP
Adrian Dominican Sisters, West Palm Beach

Rev. Deacon Richard L. Santello
Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

Sister Marie Skebe, OP
Adrian Dominican Sisters

Deacon Edward Smith
St. Anne Catholic Church, St. Petersburg

Deacon Cris Stout
St Lawrence Catholic Church, Tampa

Deacon Jorge Suarez
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Tampa

Deacon Michael Waldron
St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, Palm Harbor

Deacon Rick Wells, J.C.L.
St. Catherine of Siena, Clearwater

Rev. Kim P. Wells
Lakewood United Church of Christ, St. Petersburg

Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler
Holy Cross Catholic Church, St. Petersburg

Deacon Joe Zucchero
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Clearwater