

Contact Us

Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

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Resources for Teachers:

Educating for Justice:
www.educatingforjustice.org

Death Penalty Information Center:
www.deathpenaltyinfo.org

MSJC Death Penalty pages:
www.msjc.net/DeathPenalty



What can I do?

- * Let elected officials know that you oppose the use of the death penalty
- * Keep the victims of crime and their families, as well as the offenders and their families, in your prayers
- * Contact the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative to find out what is going on in your community
- * Let us know what's happening in your area

Marianist Social
Justice Collaborative
Death Penalty Issue Team



Mission: to uphold the sanctity of all human life and the dignity of all persons through prayer, education, reflection and action to abolish the death penalty

How the Team Works:

- ◇ We educate the Marianist Family and others on the injustices and inequities of the capital punishment system in the United States
- ◇ We communicate via email and periodic conference calls and hold an annual in-person meeting.
- ◇ We are involved in local, state and community anti-death penalty organizations.
- ◇ We represent the Marianist Family at national and international gatherings around abolition of the death penalty.
- ◇ We collaborate with national abolition organizations such as Journey of Hope...From Violence to Healing, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Death Penalty Focus, and others.



Death Penalty Facts

INNOCENCE: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Herrera V. Collins* that it is Constitutional to execute an innocent person, as long as they had a fair trial.

COST: On average, it costs six times as much to execute one person as it costs to incarcerate that person for life (3.2 million versus \$600,000 in Florida). Don't believe us- ask your local prosecutor.

RACISM: When the race of the *victim* is white, the perpetrator is at least four times more likely to get the death penalty. 82% of all persons executed since 1977 were convicted of killing white people, despite the fact that more than 50% of all victims of violent crime are people of color.

NO DETERRENCE: Many death penalty proponents now concede that executions do not deter others from committing murder. In fact, murders committed by people hoping to be caught and executed are on the increase.

A POLITICIAN'S TOOL: Politicians claim they are tough on crime by supporting the death penalty. But what about PREVENTING violent crime? Over 94% of all criminal justice dollars are spent after the crime instead of on prevention.

PUBLIC OPINION: When offered the option of life without the possibility of parole for at least 25 years plus restitution for the victim's families, support for the death penalty drops below 50%.

Courtesy of Citizens United for Alternatives to the Death Penalty - www.cuadp.org

Catholic Teaching on the Death Penalty

The basic teaching of the Church is that capital punishment is to be exercised only in the rarest of cases or circumstances. The statements of the Pope and the US Bishops in recent years have emphasized that these cases are "practically non-existent." They have stressed that the taking of a human life is a disregard for the very dignity of the person, whether they are guilty or innocent.

See the following resources on Catholic Teaching on the Death Penalty:

- ❖ Catechism of the Catholic Church (1997 revision, Article 2267)
- ❖ 1980 US Bishops' Statement on Capital Punishment
- ❖ A Good Friday Appeal to End the Death Penalty
- ❖ Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice
- ❖ 101 Reasons to Abandon the Death Penalty

The above statements are accessible at www.usccb.org

