

FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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Catholic Bishops ask Governor Scott to Stay the Execution of Johnny Kormondy; Faithful to Pray for an End to the Use of the Death Penalty

Tallahassee (January 8, 2015) – The Conference urges Governor Scott to commute the sentence of Johnny Kormondy, scheduled for execution on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Mr. Kormondy deserves severe punishment for the 1993 murder of Gary McAdams and the brutal crimes against his wife, Cecilia McAdams. However, imposing a sentence of death as a consequence of killing perpetuates a cycle of violence.

Although the State has the right to carry out the death penalty in order to protect society, the unnecessary, deliberate taking of any life denies the dignity of all persons, contributes to an ever-growing disrespect for the sacredness of human life, and feeds a sense of vengeance rather than justice. Society remains safe when violent criminals are imprisoned for life.

The Florida Catholic Conference appeals to all people of faith and goodwill to pray for both victim and aggressor, and their families, for our society which continues to impose violence in return for violence, and for an end to the use of the death penalty. Catholic faithful and members of the community will gather in solidarity at the following times and locations:

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

A prayer service/holy hour will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church, 110 St. Mary Ave SW, Fort Walton Beach, on Wednesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. (CST). Contact: (850) 243-3742.

A holy hour will take place at Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, 19 N Palafox St, Pensacola, on Friday, January 9 at 11:00 a.m. (CST). Contact: (850) 438-4985.

A holy hour will be held at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 1008 Fortune Avenue, Panama City, on Monday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. (CST). Contact: (850) 763-1821, stj.office@knology.net.

A prayer service to end the use of the death penalty is held at Immaculate Conception parish, 2750 South Byron Butler Parkway, Perry, every Thursday afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

A holy hour will be held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 4665 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, on Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. Contact: (850) 339-7847. Additional Contact: Deacon Ray Aguado, (850) 435-3531, aguador@ptdiocese.org.

Tallahassee Citizens Against the Death Penalty will sponsor an interfaith prayer vigil scheduled for Thursday, January 15 at 6:00 p.m. in front of the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee and a service of remembrance in the Capitol Building Plaza Level Rotunda the day after the execution, Friday, January 16 at noon. Contact: Sheila Meehan, (850) 524-0080.