

June 9, 2015

Dear Sir:

I support the Statement on Governor Wolf's Announcement of Death Penalty Reprieve by Bishop Ronald Gainer and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. The Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania have advocated for an end to the death penalty for a long time. The modern penal system provides alternatives to taking the lives of the guilty.

Taking the life of a human being to avenge another person's death does not create a culture of life. The most violent criminals who commit serious crimes still have a dignity given by God. With Pope Francis and the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania, I reaffirm absolute respect and protection for every human life.

Governor Wolf's announcement of reprieve of the death penalty breaks the cycle of violence in our society. No one will benefit from imposing the death penalty. Mercy toward the criminal is the best benefit we can receive as a state and as a nation.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Denise Clifford, S.S.J.