



## STATEMENT ON A PLEA FOR MERCY FOR TERRY SIMS

February 23, 2000

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We extend our sincere sympathies to the family and loved ones of George Pfeil, for whose 1977 shooting death **Terry Sims** is scheduled to die on Wednesday morning. But we ask our Governor to halt this execution.

Society must be protected, but with Florida's alternative law providing life in prison with no opportunity for parole, we should not be going to the extent of taking life, even a life that has committed terrible evil.

We diminish ourselves as a people when we take away the dignity of human life. The commandment "thou shall not kill," will not be taught by killing people who have killed other people. We must put an end to the killing especially execution by the state over which we have control.

We appeal to the Governor for mercy and for a stay of the death sentence of Terry M. Sims.

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**Bishop Norbert M. Dorsey, CP**  
*Diocese of Orlando*

**Bishop John J. Snyder**  
*Diocese of St. Augustine*

**Bishop Anthony J. O'Connell**  
*Diocese of Palm Beach*

**Bishop John J. Nevins**  
*Diocese of Venice*

**Bishop Agustín A. Román**  
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