



# Florida Catholic Conference

*The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Florida*

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## **Florida Bishops Appeal to Governor Scott to Stop Execution of Robert Waterhouse**

February 13, 2012

The Catholic Bishops of Florida renew our plea to you, Governor Scott, to stay the execution of Robert Waterhouse scheduled for February 15, 2012.

We are aware of the long and solemn process that you undergo in making the decision to sign death warrants. At the same time, we are concerned with the increased pace of one scheduled every three months as has been the pattern since August, 2011.

We have sympathy for victims who lose their lives to violence as did Deborah Kammerer and pray for the family and friends who suffer the pain of losing their loved one. Anger destroys while forgiveness frees one to live again in peace, blotting out the desire for revenge.

We ask that the sentence for Robert Waterhouse be commuted to life in prison without possibility of parole. Such action would manifest belief in the unique dignity of every individual and the sacredness of human life. It would acknowledge God as the Lord of life and it would be more consonant with the spirit of the Gospel.

Though you are authorized, Governor, to sign death warrants, we ask you to not exercise this authority and to refrain from signing warrants. Please investigate the actions of other states where options other than death of an inmate accomplish the goal of protecting society and punishing the offender.

**Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski**  
Archdiocese of Miami

**Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito**  
Diocese of Palm Beach

**Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch**  
Diocese of St. Petersburg

**Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane**  
Diocese of Venice

**Most Reverend John G. Noonan**  
Diocese of Orlando

**Most Reverend Felipe J. Estévez**  
Diocese of St. Augustine

**Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski**  
Apostolic Administrator  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee