



# FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

*Advocating Life, Dignity and the Common Good Since 1969*

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## **Florida Bishops Appeal to Governor Scott to Stop Execution of David Alan Gore**

April 11, 2012

The Bishops of Florida ask you, Governor Scott, to resist the natural instinct to punish the evil deeds of David Alan Gore with the ultimate penalty –death by lethal injection. Gore’s heinous crimes have terribly wronged the victims and their families. We, too, feel the anger, revulsion. But responding to murder by killing the criminal sanctions violence. The claim for justice needs to be balanced by mercy. Society can be protected and justice served by keeping Mr. Gore in prison until his natural death.

Our hearts were touched by the soul wrenching stories about the six women who died at his hands. We pray for consolation for their families who have suffered, knowing the pain their loved ones endured at the hands of Mr. Gore. Revenge does not bring peace, only forgiveness as proclaimed by our Lord on the cross when he said, “Forgive them, Father! They don’t know what they are doing.” (Lk 23:34)

All human life has dignity and is sacred, created in God’s image, even those who have done great harm. Violence begets violence and coarsens the culture so that life is no longer valued as a gift from God. Today, we are able to protect society and also give criminals a chance to reform and repent. Governor, we ask you to stay the execution of David Alan Gore.

**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