



## FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 \* (850) 205-6820

### **A PLEA FOR MERCY FOR LARRY MANN April 8, 2013**

The Bishops of Florida appeal to Governor Scott for mercy in the case of Larry Mann, who is scheduled to die by lethal injection at 5:30 p.m. on April 10, 2013. We must never forget his victim, Elisa Nelson, nor her family and loved ones, whose brutal death has caused unimaginable pain and agony. We are moved, though, to reject the added violence this execution will bring on our society, knowing it will neither restore her life, nor take away the pain caused by this horrific crime.

Executions are legitimized killing by the State and they perpetuate a cycle of violence, feeding an underlying sense of vengeance in our culture. Modern society has the means to protect itself without the death penalty. Florida has an alternative to executions through life in prison with no possibility of parole. More killing is not a solution. "I set before you life and death . . . choose life." (Cf. Deuteronomy 30:19)

Capital cases in our judicial system have proven to be inconsistent, arbitrary and too often in error. Florida's alarmingly high reversal rate leads us to join with others in calling for a review of the death penalty process in our state. We appeal to Governor Scott for clemency and a stay of the execution for Larry Mann.

As a sign of solidarity with those around the state in prayer prior to the execution, the bishops have called for a special prayer vigil to be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, 5815 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33710.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes**  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee