



FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Advocating Life, Dignity and the Common Good since 1969

201 W. Park Avenue * Tallahassee, FL * 32301-7760 * www.flacathconf.org

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Contacts:

Michele M. Taylor
Associate Director for Communications
(850) 205-6817
mtaylor@flacathconf.org

Sheila S. Hopkins
Associate Director for Social Concerns/Respect Life
(850) 339-0075
shopkins@flacathconf.org

Catholic Bishops Ask Governor to Spare Life of Martin Grossman

Tallahassee-The Catholic Bishops of Florida make our plea to you, Governor Crist, to issue a stay of the execution for Martin Grossman scheduled for February 16, 2010. We support punishment as a means of protecting society and offering the possibility of repentance by the offender. However, execution is seen as an act of revenge for an offender's deeds and does little to deter future criminal acts in society.

We can never fully appreciate the pain of those who have lost a loved one to a violent criminal act. The family and friends of Margaret Parks have suffered due to her untimely death. Sentencing Mr. Grossman to life in prison without possibility of parole is punishment and more in keeping with our belief that every life has dignity, even those who have committed serious crimes.

Public support for the death penalty has been in decline for several reasons including possibility of the innocence of an offender. While the Catholic Church does not exclude use of the death penalty when it is the only way to protect human beings from an aggressor and presuming the identity and guilt of the offender have been established, protection of the public by incarceration of offenders in our penal institutions is more in keeping with the promotion of the common good in civil society.

Governor, you can be assured that justice is achieved without resorting to state-sanctioned violence. Please spare the life of Mr. Grossman and let him spend the rest of his natural life on death row.

Archbishop John C. Favalora
Archdiocese of Miami

Bishop Victor Galeone
Diocese of St. Augustine

Bishop Robert N. Lynch
Diocese of St. Petersburg

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski
Diocese of Orlando

Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ
Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito
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Diocese of Venice

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Archdiocese of Miami

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Archdiocese of Miami

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*The Florida Catholic Conference is an agency of the Catholic Bishops of Florida.
It speaks for the Church in matters of public policy and serves as liaison to the executive, legislative and judicial branches
of government. The archbishop and bishops of the seven (arch)dioceses in Florida constitute its board of directors.*