

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



November 6, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Re: Request to commute death Sentence to life without parole for Patrick Hannon

Dear Governor Scott:

The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops appeals to you to commute Patrick Hannon's death sentence to a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

The inconsistent and arbitrary application of the death penalty is profoundly apparent. Defendants whose death sentences were finalized after June 2002 have been considered eligible for resentencing hearings. Yet, those, like Mr. Hannon, sentenced prior to that date - but under the same system ruled unconstitutional - have been denied relief.

Mr. Hannon, who is scheduled to be executed November 8, has been convicted of the murders of Brandon Snider and Robert Carter. The victims, their families and our community have been terribly wronged. Indeed, Mr. Hannon's violent acts call out for justice and should be condemned.

However, a life sentence without parole is an alternative and a severe sentence. It is not necessary to execute Mr. Hannon to keep society safe from him and to punish him, so we urge you to implement this non-lethal punishment and commute his sentence to life without the possibility of parole. This is a better response that recognizes his human dignity and that of every person. It avoids any appearance of state-sanctioned vengeance and ends the cycle of violence.

We applaud your leadership as a pro-life governor as it relates to protecting the unborn and promoting human dignity. Each human life has a God-given dignity that is neither earned nor lost through our actions, even those that have caused great harm. We seek a state that is consistently pro-life, protecting human life in all stages and in all circumstances.

We pray for all involved in this tragic situation: you, as the final authority in the state over Mr. Hannon's life or death; Mr. Snider and Mr. Carter and their loved ones; and for the condemned and his family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Sheedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael B. Sheedy

cc: (Arch)Bishops of Florida