

THE YEAR OF MERCY AND SEEKING JUSTICE

Discussing the Death Penalty

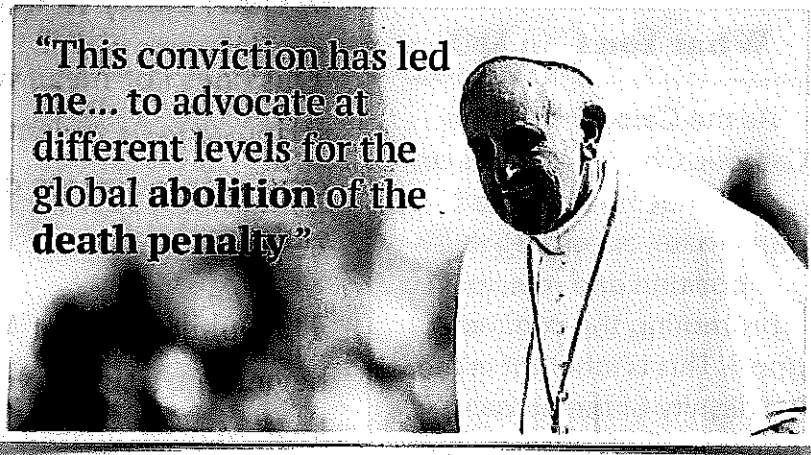
Archbishop Wester

"Our Catholic faith rests on a belief that every life is a gift, and every moment of life is an opportunity for God to work within each of us. By allowing the state to choose when to take a human life, we give the state the power to shut down God's acts of grace within an individual."

-The Most Rev. John Wester; Feb, 27th, 2015



"This conviction has led me... to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty"

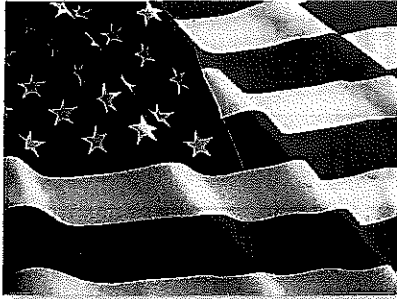


Catholic Teaching on Life and the Death Penalty

"Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36). On December 8th, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of Mercy in the Basilica of St. Peter and hundreds more were opened around the United States, ritually marking the start of an Extraordinary Year of Mercy. During this time, all Catholics are called to be the face of mercy, living and tangible in the world.

The Year of Mercy is a wonderful opportunity to talk about what Pope Francis and our faith tells us about the death penalty. Catholic teaching on human life is rooted in the belief all life is a gift from God that must be respected from conception.





What You Can DO

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This is inherent in the dignity of the human person ... As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life"

- Write Your Legislator and tell them why you support repeal
- Join Action Alerts at <http://j.mp/UtahCatholic>
- Listen and share CMN's podcast series at <http://catholicsmobilizing.org/podcasts/> to educate your community

to natural death. We are challenged to recognize the dignity of all persons, "even in the case of someone who has done great evil" (Gospel of Life, 27). When there are other ways to safeguard society, resorting to the death penalty displays a disregard for the sacredness of life and the redemptive power of God's mercy to work in the lives of offenders.

This does not mean we fail to recognize the seriousness of violent crime or the pain it causes. It means we do not wish to emulate violence.

This Jubilee Year of Mercy offers a new beginning, a time to courageously live God's love. May we answer the call of Pope Francis to joyfully take the Church's mission of mercy to the world. Look for ways to get involved in advocating against the death penalty in Utah from the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

Pope Francis' Historic Visit to United States Congress

"The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development. This conviction has led me, from the beginning of my ministry, to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty."



HELP SAVE LIVES

FEBRUARY 10 - MARCH 20

Join the worldwide movement to protect mothers and children

From February 10 — March 20, our city will join with hundreds of other cities for 40 Days for Life, a life-saving campaign made up of three components:



PRAYER & FASTING



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



PEACEFUL VIGIL

40 Days for Life is a peaceful pro-life effort ... and 675,000 volunteers in 607 cities across 32 nations have taken part. With God's help, 40 Days for Life has seen **11,165** babies saved from abortion, **127** abortion worker conversions, and **64** closed abortion centers. Pray and get involved, and **YOU** can help save lives!

Salt Lake City 40 DAYS FOR LIFE:

Vigil location: Outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion center at 160 S 1000 E.

Vigil hours: 6 AM — Midnight daily

Local contact: Dominic and Jeana Jones at 801-582-1198 or jonesd@xmission.com

Learn more ... and get involved:

40daysforlife.com/saltlakecity




**40 DAYS
FOR LIFE™**

LIVE MERCY THIS LENT

Feed the hungry, provide water to the thirsty, care for the sick, and more, without leaving your dinner table.

CRS Rice Bowl is a global pathway to the works of mercy. Rice Bowl helps you pray, fast, learn and give this Lent, in a way that changes the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.

All you need is a CRS Rice Bowl and a Lenten Calendar! Keep the CRS Rice Bowl near your family dinner table and:

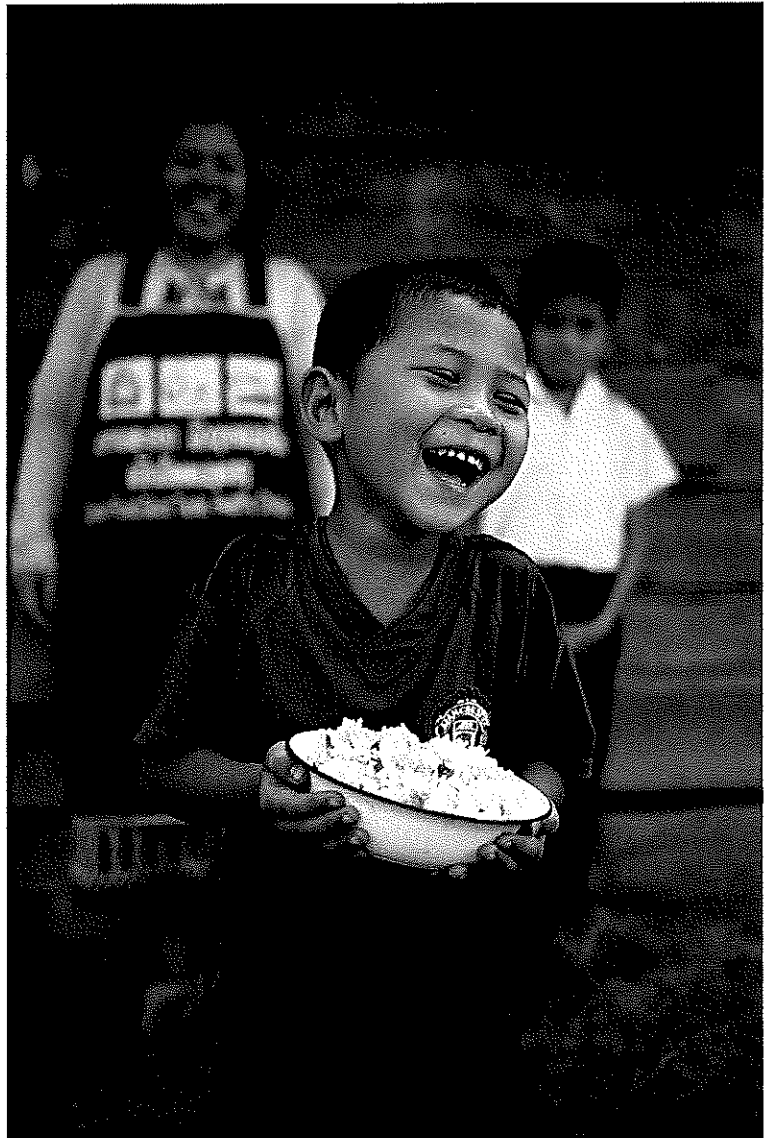
PRAY using the Lenten Calendar and the CRS Rice Bowl app. What is the day's message? How does it connect to the life of your family?

FAST together. How is your family's Lenten fast going? How will it affect your lives today, tomorrow and after Lent?

LEARN about the people for whom this week's Lenten prayers are being offered. Read and discuss the Story of Hope. Who is your family helping this week? Where do they live? What do they do?

GIVE the suggested donation to your CRS Rice Bowl from the Lenten Calendar. Why is it important to give to others? How can you continue giving back even after Lent?

FOR MORE, VISIT CRSRICEBOWL.ORG



Catholic Relief Services is the global humanitarian arm of the Catholic community of the United States. We assist poor and suffering people in 91 countries by directly meeting basic needs and advocating solutions to injustice.



Share your Rice Bowl acts of mercy
on Twitter using #slcmercy