

Novena to End the Death Penalty

Day One – For those who have been executed

We pray for those who have been executed by the state. May our merciful God welcome them to their eternal home, and may we honor them with a desire for true justice. May the abolition of the death penalty in this country – and globally – honor the memory of all who have died by violent means. Pledge to Pray with Pope Francis and offer your personal intention to this worldwide prayer, today.

Day Two– For victims of violence and their families

We pray for victims of violence and their families. May they experience our love and support and find comfort in God's Divine Mercy. We know that the death penalty does not serve the victim, but rather perpetuates cycles of violence. Let us uplift restorative approaches to justice that create opportunities for healing. Pledge to Pray with Pope Francis and offer your personal intention to this worldwide prayer, today.

Day Three– For those on death row and their families

We pray for those on death row and their families. May their lives be spared, may the innocent be freed and may the guilty find salvation through repentance. May they find healing and comfort in God's Divine Mercy. Pledge to Pray with Pope Francis and offer your personal intention to this worldwide prayer, today.

Day Four – For wardens, guards, others who work on death row

We pray for those who guard and care for the inmates on death row and for those who participate in executions. May they recognize that God loves each person, unconditionally, and may they know their role in bringing God's merciful justice to the incarcerated. Pledge to Pray with Pope Francis and offer your personal intention to this worldwide prayer, today.

Day Five – For communities impacted by violence

We pray for our communities disproportionately impacted by capital punishment, which perpetuates violence and harm. May we come to a deeper understanding of the pain experienced by our sisters and brothers and recognize our common desire to live in peace. Pledge to Pray with Pope Francis and offer your personal intention to this worldwide prayer, today.

Day Six – For judges, juries, parole boards, and prosecuting and defense attorneys

We pray for judges, juries, parole boards and others who make life and death decisions. May their decisions be rooted in a belief in a merciful God who treasures each human life and who desires all to be saved for eternal life. Pledge to Pray with Pope Francis and offer your personal intention to this worldwide prayer, today.

Day Seven – For the innocent, wrongfully convicted, and mentally ill who are on death row

We pray for those who are innocent, wrongly convicted, and the mentally ill who are on death row. May they find healing and comfort in God's Divine Mercy. May our hearts burn with justice and compassion for our brothers and sisters. Pledge to Pray with Pope Francis and offer your personal intention to this worldwide prayer, today.

Day Eight – For lawmakers

We pray for our legislators and other elected officials who create laws and regulations for the criminal legal system. May they be motivated to serve the common good and stop "killing in our names." Pledge to Pray with Pope Francis and offer your personal intention to this worldwide prayer, today.

Day Nine - For all people of goodwill

We pray for all people of goodwill, including each of us. May we have the fortitude and courage to continue seeking abolition of the death penalty, and may we be guided by our compassionate Father to build a society that truly chooses life in all situations. Take the first step: Pledge to Pray with Pope Francis and offer your personal intention to this worldwide prayer, today.