



Arizona Catholic Conference

Diocese of Gallup • Diocese of Phoenix • Diocese of Tucson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona Catholic Bishops Oppose Death Penalty

PHOENIX (Feb. 27, 2012) — The Bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference today reiterate their opposition to the use of the death penalty. The Arizona Bishops' objection comes in the days preceding two scheduled executions by the State of Arizona.

It is important to emphasize that the Arizona Bishops express their compassion for those who are victims of brutal crimes and for their families. The effects of murder, in particular, are truly awful for families, and we pray for the healing of all those who grieve and suffer because of it.

Pope John Paul II, an ardent defender of human life on the world stage, articulated that the use of capital punishment should be limited only to extremely rare situations where it is necessary to defend society (*Evangelium Vitae*, #56).

Consistent with this belief, the Bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference consider the continued use of the death penalty in today's society as problematic and a practice that will hopefully end soon.

To view statements by the Arizona Catholic Conference Bishops on the death penalty, please visit www.azcatholicconference.org.

The Arizona Catholic Conference is the public policy agency for the Diocese of Gallup, the Diocese of Phoenix, Diocese of Tucson and the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix.

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