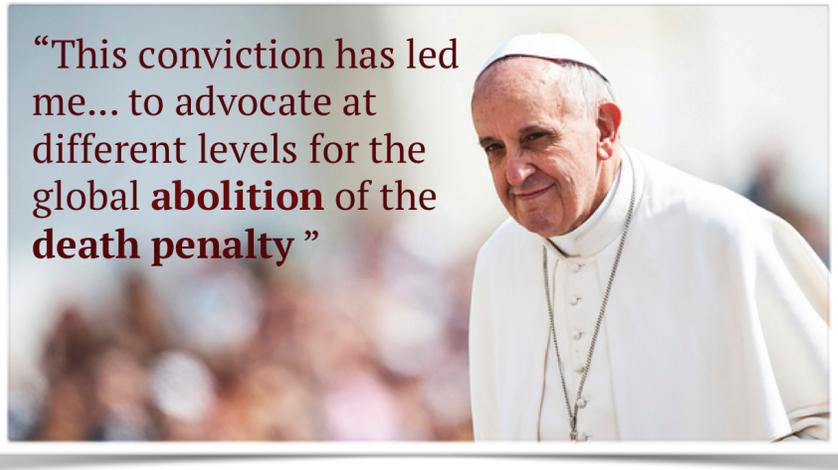
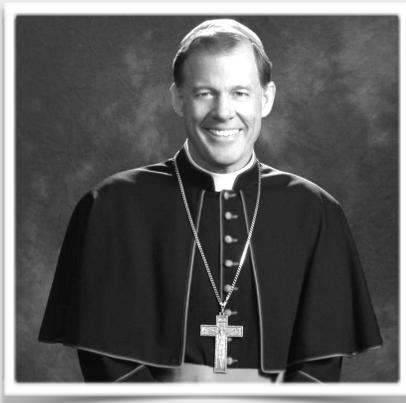

THE YEAR OF MERCY AND SEEKING JUSTICE

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



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://catholicmobilizing.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."

