



Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City Prayer and Action Network

WHO SHOULD GO HUNGRY? As we approach the end of 2013 and look forward to spending time with our families and a New Year, let us also take a moment and reflect on those who have too little. Too little in their cupboards to make a meal, too little to heat their homes and despite too much work, not earning enough to make ends meet. If the House and the Senate Farm Bill Conference Committee have their way this next year will hold cuts to eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or food stamps as it is known in Utah.

Pope Francis kicked off the global fight against hunger on Dec. 10th noting that “we cannot look the other way and pretend this does not exist.” Join in the cause of helping the hungry in the U.S.

What can you do? Please take a moment and send a Holiday or Christmas Card to your U.S. Representative, Senators and the White House. ANY cut to SNAP means hunger will increase and they are making a choice about #whogoeshungry, let them know this is unacceptable. It will only take a moment- click the link below and send a card and ask “Who Should Go Hungry?” <http://whogoeshungry.org/>

WHO SHOULD DIE? Last week the State of Missouri carried out the execution of Allen Nicklasson on December 11. Because of last minute court filings, the execution had been delayed almost 23 hours. Even before the Nicklasson execution had taken place, the Missouri Supreme Court set a January 29th execution date for Herbert Smulls, who was convicted of robbery and murder of a jewelry store owner in St. Louis.

Supporters of capital punishment often believe that the death penalty acts as deterrence to crime. The facts show otherwise. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, states without the death penalty over the last 20 years have consistently had lower murder rates than states that use capital punishment. In looking at the years 2009, 2010, and 2011 (most recent available), states without the death penalty respectively had a 35%, 25% and 18% lower murder rates than states that used capital punishment.

Furthermore a 2008 poll of 500 police chiefs in the U.S. ranked the death penalty last when asked to name an "important area" to reduce violent crime. Police chiefs gave higher significance to increasing the number of police officers, reducing drug use and creating a better economy.

Source: Missouri Catholic Conference

What can you do? Learn more about the real impacts of the death penalty at <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/>

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK: Cleaning up for holiday guests? Chemicals used in traditional cleaning products have shown to not only be harmful to our environment throughout the lifecycle of the product but also to our own health. Using green cleaning practices and products is a safe alternative. As recently as five years ago, many non-toxic cleaning products were less effective and more expensive than their toxic counterparts, thanks to green chemistry, effective, cost-competitive non-toxic cleaning products and practices are widely available today.

PRAYER: Merciful Father, we ask your blessing on all we do to build a culture of life. Hear our prayers for those impacted by the death penalty.

We pray for all people, that their lives and dignity as children of a loving God may be respected and protected in all stages and circumstances.

We pray for victims of violence and their families, that they may experience our love and support and find comfort in your compassion and in the promise of eternal life.

We pray for those on death row, that their lives may be spared, that the innocent may be freed and that the guilty may come to acknowledge their faults and seek reconciliation with you.

We pray for the families of those who are facing execution, that they may be comforted by your love and compassion.

We pray for civic leaders, that they may commit themselves to respecting every human life and ending the use of the death penalty in our land.

Compassionate Father, give us wisdom and hearts filled with your love. Guide us as we work to end the use of the death penalty and to build a society that truly chooses life in all situations.

We ask this Father through your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen

Source: USCCB