

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRY DIOCESE OF BEAUMONT



October 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1 CMN Prayer
Vigil 1pm

October 2-3 Respect Life
Weekend

October 12 Execution of
Stephen Barbee

**Hygiene Supply Drive
for Stiles during October

Special Edition: Respect Life Month

The Catholic Church celebrates Respect Life Month during October. Catholics, and all people by their common humanity, are called to be concerned about **abortion and euthanasia, education and health care, capital punishment and crime, war and hunger**, and a much lengthier list of issues impacting the dignity of human life. This edition will focus on capital punishment and the death penalty.

"The nature and extent of the punishment must be carefully evaluated and decided upon, and ought not go to the extreme of executing the offender except in cases of absolute necessity: In

other words, when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society. Today however, as a result of steady improvements in the organization of the penal system, such cases are **very rare if not practically nonexistent**" (Evangelium Vitae, 56, emphasis added). Every offender still deserves respect as a person, and ending the offender's life deprives him of the time he may need to repent and change.

On August 2, 2018, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 2267) was changed to proclaim that "**the death penalty is inadmissible** because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person". [Catholic News Agency article](#)

See also "[Life Matters: A Catholic Response to the Death Penalty](#)" bulletin insert from the USCCB. Spanish version is [here](#).

The dignity of a person is not lost even after committing the most serious crimes...

~Pope Francis speaks in St. Peter's Basilica, June 28, 2018

A note about Stiles: Chaplain (Deacon) Tommy Ewing seems to be doing very well at his new post. Continue praying for him in his role as Chaplain. He has a lot on his plate! So many of you are excited to get back in to minister. At this time, there is no projected date as to when the unit will open up for retreats. This virus still has things shut down to minimum services and classes. Either Sr. Misty or your Kolbe Core team will send out the official information to any volunteers when the appropriate time comes! Continue to be patient ☺

FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER VIGILS

On the First Friday of each month, Catholic Mobilizing Network holds a Virtual Prayer Vigil to lament upcoming executions and bear witness to the inviolable dignity of all human life.

These virtual spaces offer a place to pray together as a faith community in response to the injustice of the death penalty. They include time for guided prayer, petitions, Scripture reflections, and contemplative silence. The vigils feature the voices of Catholic bishops, Church leaders, and allies across the death penalty abolition movement.

The next First Friday Prayer Vigil is scheduled for Friday, October 1st at 2 p.m. EDT / 1 p.m. CST. Please RSVP [here](#) to attend.

RESOURCES ON DEATH PENALTY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Catholic Mobilizing Network <https://catholicmobilizing.org/>

St. Maximilian Kolbe Prayer Service [here](#)

Execution Watch <https://executionwatch.org/>

Death Penalty Information Site <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/>

Texas Execution Information Center <http://www.txexecutions.org/>

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty <https://tcadp.org/>

Texas Death Penalty Facts from Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty <https://tcadp.org/get-informed/texas-death-penalty-facts/>

Prolife activities from USCCB <https://www.usccb.org/prolife>

Catholic Charities from Arizona <https://www.catholiccharitiesaz.org/social-issues/right-to-life-and-the-dignity-of-the-human-person>

Church Teachings on Life Issues <https://stlaurence.org/church-teaching>

Life Matters: A Catholic Response to the Death Penalty [Read here](#)

Catholic Mobilizing Network LISTEN: Chris Castillo, who is the son of a murder victim, discusses the death penalty, healing, and forgiveness on the latest episode of the [Gin & Justice Podcast](#).

Webinar: A Catholic Encounter with Restorative Justice [watch here](#)

EXECUTIONS

Stephen Barbee is scheduled to be executed on October 12th. On September 8th, John Ramirez had a stay of execution. He wanted his pastor to touch him and pray aloud with him in the death chamber. The case is in the US Supreme Court now along with others with the same request.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The average cost of a Texas death penalty case is nearly 3 times higher than imprisoning someone for life without the possibility of parole.
- Since 1992, 240 people accused of committing serious crimes have been exonerated. The State of Texas has paid over \$65 million in compensation to those wrongfully convicted.
- According to TDCJ, there are currently 199 people on Texas's death row, including 6 women. This is the smallest Texas death row population since 1985, when 188 people awaited execution, according to research by TCADP.
- Less than 20% of the 254 counties in Texas account for the entire population of death row at this time. Texas has the third-largest death row population in the nation, after California (711) and Florida (339)
- Since 1973, 185 individuals who spent time on death row have been exonerated. This includes 16 people convicted and sentenced to death in Texas, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

SAVE THE DATE—NOVEMBER 30TH 2021

We are delighted to announce that for the first time, the Diocese of Beaumont will participate in the annual **#iGiveCatholic** Giving Day on **#GivingTuesday, November 30, 2021.**



WHAT IS #iGIVECATHOLIC?

The **#iGiveCatholic** Giving Day is celebrated annually on **#GivingTuesday**, a global day dedicated to giving back, to unite and donate—both online and offline—to your favorite ministries that you're passionate to support. **#iGiveCatholic** kicks off the charitable season of gratitude and brings the Catholic community together to give thanks and give back. In 2020, the campaign raised more than \$12.7 million for 2,600+ participating parishes, schools, and nonprofits representing 40 arch/dioceses across the country.

WHAT IS #GIVINGTUESDAY?

#GivingTuesday is an annual day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and widely recognized shopping events of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, **#GivingTuesday** kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. With this platform, you can support any ministry, school, or parish in the Diocese of Beaumont who participate.

WHEN IS #iGIVECATHOLIC ON #GIVINGTUESDAY?

This year, **#GivingTuesday** is on **November 30th** from 12 AM ET to 11:59 PM ET. More information will follow in next month's newsletter! Stay tuned!

****I have our page listed as Criminal Justice Ministries. All monies donated to this ministry will go specifically to the St. Kolbe Retreat fund to support retreats once we're able to go back into the prisons as a group.**

LAST BUT NOT LEAST—HYGIENE DRIVE FOR STILES

The last hygiene supply drive we did for Stiles was back in June 2021. They have contacted me and said they could use some supplies again. The men who receive these supplies are those who are not able to buy hygiene products in the commissary due to them being indigent. Their kits contain one each of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and a bar of soap. Specifically, they're looking for **shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste.** They have plenty of bars of soap at this time. You can drop off donations at the chancery throughout the month of October. If needed, contact Sr. Misty and we can make arrangements for pickup. **Brand of items is not important.** They request **regular sizes**, not bulk sizes or trial sizes.

Thank you for your kindness!

Criminal Justice Ministries

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