



## FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

*The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida*

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Catholic bishops reiterate plea for Governor Scott to spare the life of Jose Antonio Jimenez**

Floridians pray for an end to the use of the death penalty

**TALLAHASSEE, FL (December 10, 2018)** – Jose Antonio Jimenez is scheduled to be executed on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. for the 1992 murder of Phyllis Minas. Governor Scott initially signed Jimenez' death warrant in July and scheduled his execution for August 14. However, the Florida Supreme Court issued a stay of execution to further review the case. The Supreme Court lifted the stay on October 4.

In a December 7 letter to Governor Rick Scott on behalf of the bishops of Florida, Michael Sheedy, executive director, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, asked the governor a second time to commute Jimenez' death sentence. "We appreciate your difficult task as governor and still must ask you to commute this death sentence, and all death sentences, to life without the possibility of parole," said Sheedy.

In August 2018, Pope Francis requested reformulation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church's* treatment of the death penalty. The revised instruction reflects the growing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of great crimes. Additionally, more effective forms of detention have been developed to ensure the due protection of citizens without definitively depriving the guilty of the possibility of redemption. "For an increasing number of Christians, the death penalty is inadmissible," noted Sheedy.

Prior to Jimenez' scheduled execution, Catholic faithful and members of the community will gather across the state to pray for the victims of violent crimes and their families, for those on death row, for Governor Scott as he confronts the decision to proceed with the execution, and for an end to the use of the death penalty.

Links:

- [Full text of letter to Governor Scott](#)
- [Vatican Press Office: New revision of number 2267 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church on the death penalty – Rescriptum "ex Audentia SS.mi", 02.08.2018](#)
- [Locations and times of prayer vigils](#)

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