

After a moratorium, executions have resumed in Florida.

As Catholics and as citizens of this state, we are compelled to voice our unequivocal opposition to this practice of State sponsored killing.

A silent vigil during the execution of
MARK DEAN SCHWAB

November 15, 2007 from 5:30-6:30 pm
St Ignatius Loyola Cathedral - Palm Beach Gardens

The U.S. Catholic Bishops have been calling for an end to the death penalty for 25 years. In 2005 they issued a new pastoral statement, "A Culture of Life" to clarify this position. They state that the death penalty is unnecessary and unjustified in our time and circumstances, and that our nation should forego the use of the death penalty because:

The sanction of death, when it is not necessary to protect society, violates respect for human life and dignity.

State-sanctioned killing in our names diminishes all of us.

Its application is deeply flawed and can be irreversibly wrong, is prone to errors, and is biased by factors such as race, the quality of legal representation, and where the crime was committed.

We have other ways to punish criminals and protect society.

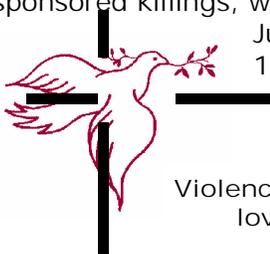
Florida Catholic Bishops have concurred that the death penalty has been discriminatory toward the poor, the indigent and racial minorities. In their position statement released in January 2002, they state:

"Capital punishment contributes to the escalating atmosphere of violence in our society and undermines belief of the inherent worth and dignity of human life."

Florida is one of the five states that contribute to more than 65% of the nation's executions.

A decision to kill caused this terrible tragedy...
more killing cannot repair the damage done.

As members of Pax Christi Florida witness against the execution of Mark Dean Schwab and all state-sponsored killings, we are ever mindful of the unimaginable pain and suffering which the family of Junny Rios-Martinez continues to endure. Please keep the family and friends of this 11-year old victim in your thoughts and prayers.



Violence ends where
love begins

Please Join Us!

for more information:
Beth Cioffoletti

561-626-6520 Email: shoofoolatte@gmail.com

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