



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bishop applauds Pope Francis' update to Catechism of the Catholic Church stating the death penalty "inadmissible"

KALAMAZOO, Mich.: (August 2, 2018): Bishop Bradley welcomed the news today that Pope Francis has approved a clearer articulation of the Church's teaching in regard to the death penalty, based on the principle of the dignity of the human person, and encourages efforts to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide. Bishop Bradley indicated that because of the revision in the articulation of this teaching, paragraph 2267 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* will now state that the "death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person", (1) and "she (the Church) will continue to work with determination for its abolition worldwide." Bishop Bradley's statement follows:

"Today we were happy to learn that Pope Francis has approved a clearer articulation of the Church's teaching on the death penalty. The revised language in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* now states that the death penalty is always inadmissible, regardless of the gravity of a person's crime. Our Holy Father, in making this doctrinal clarification on the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the *Catechism*, affirms the teachings of Pope St. John Paul II, especially in his major encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" (The Gospel of Life), and the teachings of each Pope since, including his own.

"It is our strong hope that this clarification will assist in renewing our hope for a world that affirms the sanctity of all human life as a gift from God, and that the Church will continue advocating for an end to any evil that is against human life, from abortion to the death penalty."

Following is the complete text reflecting the revision to paragraph 2267 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

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Catechism of the Catholic Church

The death penalty

2267. Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.

Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person”,^[1] and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.

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The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and includes 59 parishes as well as 22 Catholic schools.