

# CATHOLIC COMMUNITY THANKS GOVERNOR NEWSOM

March 19, 2019

The Honorable Gavin C. Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Bldg. Ste. 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Catholics Against the Death Penalty (CADP)  
St. Camillus Center  
1911 Zonal Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90033-1032



Dear Governor Newsom,

The Catholic Community thanks and praises you for the morally courageous decision you have taken in invoking the Moratorium on the Death Penalty.

You so eloquently described the fault in such a sentence when you said, ““Our death penalty system has been — by any measure — a failure, ... It has provided no public safety benefit or value as a deterrent. It has wasted billions of taxpayer dollars. But most of all, the death penalty is absolute, irreversible and irreparable in the event of a human error.”

How true! How does one restore a life, if after an execution it is discovered the prisoner was actually innocent? This struggle has been ongoing for centuries as can be seen in the following:

“For the law holds, that it is better that ten guilty persons escape, than that one innocent suffer.”

---- Lord William Blackstone in 1783.

"It is better and more satisfactory to acquit a thousand guilty persons than to put a single innocent one to death." ---- twelfth-century legal theorist Maimonides.

These men of great mind were in fact basing their wise words on an even older authority: Genesis 18: 23-32. Here Abraham speaks with GOD about the fate of the righteous (innocent) who lived in Sodom. Should the innocent be swept away with the guilty? It is obvious that our LORD FATHER considered this wrong. HE would spare the entire city if but 10 righteous were found there.

The standard is set by THE MOST HIGH. We can do no less. In the words of Pope Francis, "All Christians and people of good will are thus called today to struggle not only for abolition of the death penalty, whether it be legal or illegal and in all its forms, but also to improve prison conditions, out of respect for the human dignity of persons deprived of their liberty. And this, I connect with life imprisonment," he said. "Life imprisonment is a hidden death penalty." You have embodied this call by your courageous decision.

Your announcement has renewed our hope, strength, and determination to continue onward in this just cause. So, Governor Newsom, we thank you in the name of our Father and again applaud the moral courage and personal integrity you are demonstrating to the world. We commend you for tempering your decision with compassion towards the victims. Bless you for making this a human choice not a political one.

We at Catholics Against the Death Penalty (CADP) continue with you on the road ahead to abolish the death penalty. Rest assured that you will be in the prayers of many and that our supplications will be for God to strengthen, comfort, bless, and guide you in all things.

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Signature

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Street Address / Postal Box

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Parental Permission (if signatory is a minor)

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City,

State,

Zip Code