

Bishop Griffin Signs Moratorium Call

On October 9, 2003 religious leaders gathered at Trinity Lutheran Seminary to sign a letter to Governor Taft and elected officials calling for an end to the death penalty.

The Interfaith Coalition to Stop Executions is offering a Guide on Death Penalty Preaching and Teaching Resources for \$10.00. To order, contact Jim Tobin at the Catholic Conference of Ohio, 614-224-7147 or www.stopexecutions.org.



“I am pleased to join in solidarity with the many faith leaders present today in calling for our Governor and elected officials to end executions in Ohio.

A statewide moratorium on executions and a study of Ohio’s death penalty practices and policies are important steps toward this goal.

While the Catholic Church remains staunchly in favor of administering justice to those guilty of heinous crimes, the Catholic Church also believes that taking the life of another person is not a just form of punishment in our day. It is unnecessary. There are more humane alternatives that can protect society and punish those who are guilty, including life in prison without parole and high security prisons.

I also ask for prayers for the victims of violence, their families, those on death row, and their families that we will find peaceful ways to end violence in our society and that we will utilize nonviolent means to punish violent offenders.

In signing this statement, I reaffirm our diocesan commitment to ongoing education, outreach and public policy advocacy to end executions in Ohio.”