

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

June 22, 2009

The Honorable Ted Strickland
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0601

Dear Governor Strickland:

This is the second of two letters being sent today regarding executions scheduled for this July. On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio I urge you to commute the death sentence of Marvallow Keene to life without parole. He is scheduled for execution on July 21, 2009.

Mr. Keene, like Mr. Fautenberry, is not innocent. He was also involved with a horrible spree of multiple killings. Again, we ask you to show mercy, because another death is not necessary to protect society or justly punish Mr. Keene. Life without parole would be a morally justifiable response. It demonstrates that, in Ohio, we can rise above another killing. We can implement strong and fair alternatives to executions.

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Joseph Wilkerson, Danita Gullette, Sarah Abraham, Wendy Cottrill, and Marvin Washington, as well as all victims of violent and senseless crimes. We pray for Mr. Keene and his family and friends. We continue to pray for you and all who must participate in our state executions.

In light of the high number of executions that are pending this year, and possibly next year, we strongly encourage you to establish a non-partisan study commission to closely look at the death penalty system in Ohio. You could be assured of our public support for such a prudent action.

Respectfully,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk
Archbishop of Cincinnati