

# CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

August 2, 2010

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

Dear Governor Strickland:

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio, I urge you to provide clemency to Mr. Kevin Keith who is scheduled for execution on September 15, 2010. We understand that Mr. Keith's attorneys have raised significant issues related to his innocence. These issues center on the reliability of eyewitness identification and the plausibility of an alternative crime suspect. We encourage your special consideration of such issues. For us, the moral tragedy of an execution is exacerbated should there be any reasonable evidence of innocence.

As you are aware, the Catholic Church believes that the death penalty is an unnecessary and systemically flawed form of punishment. The Catholic Bishops of Ohio consistently have advocated for an end to the death penalty. Viable and just alternatives, such as life imprisonment, are effectively used in other states and other countries.

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family and friends of Marichell Chatman, Marchae Chatman and Linda Chatman. We pray for Mr. Keith and his family and friends. We continue to pray for you and all who must participate in our state executions.

May God grant you wisdom and courage. We look forward to the day when the death penalty is only remembered as part of Ohio's history.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. Schnurr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small cross symbol at the beginning of the first name.

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr  
Archbishop of Cincinnati