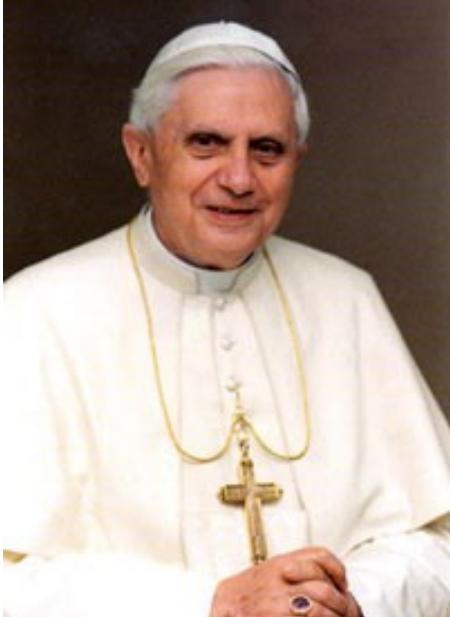


The Popes Speak ...

I likewise express my personal appreciation, along with that of men and women of goodwill, for your commitment to a world free of the death penalty ... Indeed, nowadays the death penalty is unacceptable, however grave the crime of the convicted person. It is an offence to the inviolability of life and to the dignity of the human person; it likewise contradicts God's plan for individuals and society, and his merciful justice. Nor is it consonant with any just purpose of punishment. It does not render justice to victims, but instead fosters vengeance. The commandment "Thou shalt not kill" has absolute value and applies both to the innocent and to the guilty.

Sixth World Congress Against the Death Penalty
Oslo, Norway
21-23 June 2016

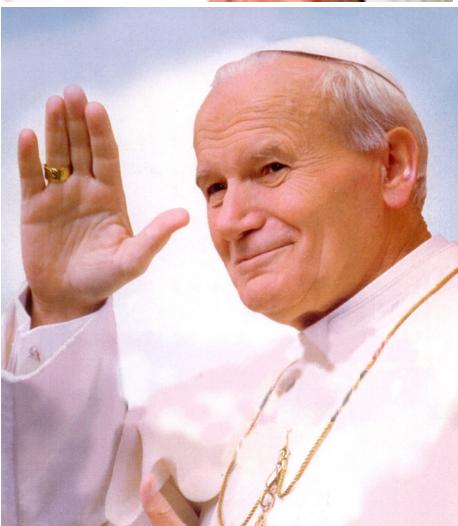


I express my hope that your deliberations will encourage the political and legislative initiatives being promoted in a growing number of countries to eliminate the death penalty ...

Nov. 30, 2011

I draw the attention of society's leaders to the need to make every effort to eliminate the death penalty and to reform the penal system...

November 19, 2011



I renew the appeal...to end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary.

January 27, 1999