

# Respect Life and the Death Penalty

## Focus

Students will explore their personal feelings towards those who commit crimes in general and those on Death Row in particular.

## Scripture

Using Scripture, students will examine, learn and understand Jesus' teachings on crime and offenders.

Luke 6: 27-36

Luke 17: 1-4

Matthew 5: 38-42

John 8: 1-11

## Materials and Supplies Needed

- Bibles. One for each person.
- Writing paper. One sheet for each person.
- Handouts for each Person  
— see *Before the Session*
- Pens or pencils. One for each person.
- Masking Tape

## Before the Session

### 1– 2 Weeks

Fill in the required information at the bottom of the **Letter to Parents**. Make sufficient copies for each student and give each student a copy of the **Letter to Parents**. Instruct the students to take the letter home for parents to read and sign. Ask the students to return the letter before the scheduled class session.

### Just Before the Session

Using the following URLs, visit the following websites and use the images to create 8½ x 11 displays. Using masking tape, prominently post images around various parts of the room.

#### Images from California's Death Row

<http://www.good.is/post/eye-opening-images-from-california-s-death-row/>

#### Pictures of Death Row Inmates

[Latimes.com/projects/la-me-death-row/](http://Latimes.com/projects/la-me-death-row/)

### Handouts — make sufficient copies for each person.

- ♦ In Jesus' Own Words
- ♦ Catholic Teaching on the Death Penalty
- ♦ Renewing Our Call to End the Death Penalty
- ♦ The Popes Speak
- ♦ Closing Prayer

## Resources

### Movies

A Lesson Before Dying

In a Blink of An Eye

Death No More

Dead Man Walking

The Green Mile

Amish Grace

The Life of David Gale

### Music

25 Minutes to Go - Johnny Cash

The Mercy Seat - Johnny Cash

Ellis Unit One - Steve Earle

Dead Man Walking - Bruce Springsteen

### Booklets

- ***Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration***  
A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice

- A Good Friday Appeal to End the Death Penalty

- Confronting a Culture of Violence

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

2266

2306

2267

### Web Sites

[cacp.org](http://cacp.org)

[deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://deathpenaltyinfo.org)

[deathpenalty.org](http://deathpenalty.org)

[cacatholic.org](http://cacatholic.org)