

# 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

## 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/>

### 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

## 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

Resources	Catechism of the Catholic Church
<b>Movies</b>	
A Lesson Before Dying	2266
In a Blink of An Eye	2306
Death No More	2267
Dead Man Walking	
The Green Mile	
Amish Grace	
The Life of David Gale	
<b>Music</b>	
25 Minutes to Go - Johnny Cash	
The Mercy Seat - Johnny Cash	
Ellis Unit One - Steve Earle	
Dead Man Walking - Bruce Springsteen	
<b>Booklets</b>	
• <b><i>Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration</i></b>	
A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice	
• A Good Friday Appeal to End the Death Penalty	
• Confronting a Culture of Violence	
<b>Web Sites</b>	
cacp.org	
deathpenaltyinfo.org	
deathpenalty.org	
cacatholic.org	