



My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.  
*Stained-glass window, St. James Cathedral. Hans Gottfried von Stockhausen, 1994*

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL  
**Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

August 16, 2009

# ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE PRAYER OF THE COMMUNITY,  
PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE AS YOU ENTER THE CATHEDRAL.

PRELUDE

*Chant de Paix*

Langlais

ENTRANCE

*All creatures of our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN



1. All crea - tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice  
2. O rush - ing wind and breez - es soft, O clouds that ride  
3. O flow - ing wa - ters, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for  
4. Dear moth - er earth, who day by day Un - folds rich bless -  
5. O ev - 'ry one of ten - der heart, For - giv - ing oth -

and with us sing: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
the winds a - loft: O praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!  
your Lord to hear. O praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!  
ings on our way, O praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!  
ers, take your part, O praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!

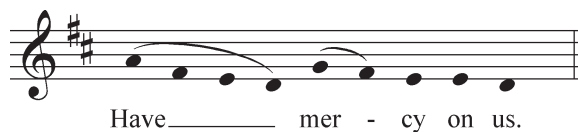
O burn - ing sun with gold - en beam And sil - ver moon  
O ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice, O lights of eve -  
O fire so mas - ter - ful and bright, Pro - vid - ing us  
The fruits and flow'rs that ver - dant grow, Let them his praise  
All you who pain and sor - row bear, Praise God and lay

with soft - er gleam: O praise him, O praise him.  
ning, find a voice. O praise him, O praise him.  
with warmth and light, O praise him, O praise him.  
a - bun - dant show. O praise him, O praise him.  
on him your care. O praise him, O praise him.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

PENITENTIAL RITE

chant, *Missa de angelis*



Have \_\_\_\_\_ mer - cy on us.

## GLORIA

to the tune LAUDA ANIMA

Glory be to God in heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring,  
Thankful hearts and voices raising,  
To creation's Lord we sing:  
Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you,  
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God who on your shoulders  
Bore the load of this world's sin,  
Only Son of God the Father,  
You have brought us peace within:  
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin.

You, O Son of God, are holy,  
You we praise with one accord;  
None in heav'n or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord,  
With the Father, and the Spirit,  
Ever worshipped and adored. (Text: Edwin Le Grice)

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS No. 923

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 34

Proulx



ALLELUIA

Berthier



HOMILY

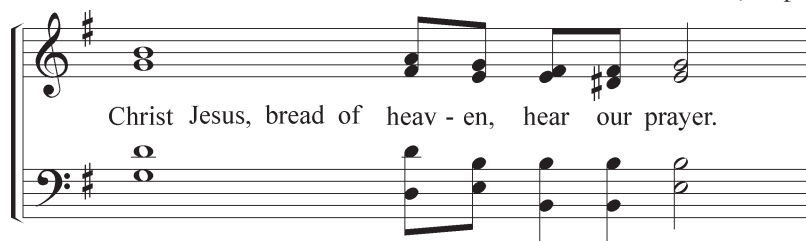
Father David A. Brant

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES (10:00)

CREED No. 238

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Berthier, adapt.



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

Offertory (10:00)

*Panis angelicus*


Franck

## SANCTUS

*Corpus Christi Mass*

Proulx

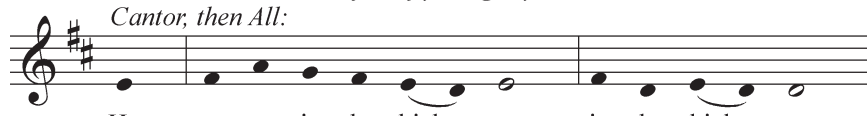
*Cantor, then All:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.

*Choir: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*


*Cantor, then All:*



Ho - san-na in the high - est, in the high - est.

*Choir: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Cantor, then All:*



Ho - san-na in the high - est, in the high - est.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

*Corpus Christi Mass*

Proulx

*Cantor, then All:*




Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ will come a - gain.

## AMEN

*Corpus Christi Mass*

Proulx

*All:*




A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

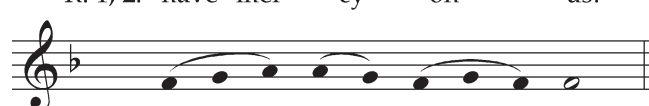
## LORD'S PRAYER No. 246

## AGNUS DEI

chant, *Missa de angelis*



R. 1, 2: have mer - cy on us.



R. 3: give us your peace.

## COMMUNION

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me,  
and I in him, says the Lord.

When you return to your place after receiving Holy Communion, please **KNEEL OR BE SEATED**. This is the norm for large assemblies in the Archdiocese of Seattle and we thank you for following our practice.

(10:00)

*For the beauty of the earth*

Rutter



(Noon)

*Taste and see*

Moore

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness  
of the Lord. O Taste and see. Taste and  
see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*Shepherd of souls*

ST. AGNES

1. Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless  
2. We would not live by bread a - lone,  
3. Be known to us in break - ing bread,  
4. Lord, sup with us in love di - vine;  
Your cho - sen pil - grim flock With man - na in the  
But by your word of grace, In strength of which we  
But do not then de - part; Sav - ior, a - bide with  
Your Bod - y and your Blood, That liv - ing bread, that  
wil - der - ness, With wa - ter from the rock.  
trav - el on To our a - bid - ing place.  
us, and spread Your ta - ble in our heart.  
heav'n - ly wine, Be our im - mor - tal food.

PROCESSION

*Carillon-Sortie*

Mulet

# St. James Cathedral - Seattle

## ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend Alexander J. Brunett, Archbishop of Seattle

### PASTOR

The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

### IN RESIDENCE

The Reverend David A. Brant  
The Reverend Thomas Marti, MM

### PASTORAL ASSISTANT for ADMINISTRATION

Lawrence N. Brouse (206-382-4280)

### PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

John Simpson (206-274-3173)

### SOCIAL OUTREACH and ADVOCACY

Patty Bowman, Director (206-382-4515)  
Jennifer Ibach (206-654-4640)  
Jim and Jill McAuliffe, Cathedral Kitchen (206-264-2091)

### LITURGY

Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy (622-3559 x3996)  
Deacon David Olsen, Stephen Pace, Bryan Long, Brenda Bellamy, Sacristans

### MUSIC MINISTRY (206-382-4874)

Dr. James Savage, Director of Music  
Joseph Adam, Organist (206-382-4597)  
Dr. Clint Kraus, Associate Organist; Director of Youth Music  
Stacey Sunde, Music Assistant  
Ian Newhall, Coordinator of Special Projects

### FAITH FORMATION

Helen Oesterle, Director/RCIA (206-382-4514)  
TerryAnn Bowen, "Welcome Back" & Confirmation (206-382-2018)  
Marianne Coté, Youth & Family Ministry (206-382-4512)  
Lita McBride, Children's Faith Formation (206-654-4658)  
Theresa Van de Ven, Administrative Assistant (206-219-5822)

### MINISTRY to IMMIGRANTS (206-382-4511)

Christopher J. Koehler, Director  
Glenda Caldwell, ESL Specialist  
Jim Hodges, Citizenship  
Cecilia Erin Walsh, ESL Coordinator  
Lupita Gonzalez, ESL Coordinator  
Mali Main, Development Assistant

### STEWARDSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

Maria Laughlin, Director (206-382-4284)

### PARISH OFFICE

Kay Kaiser, Executive Assistant (206-654-4650)  
Sister Mary Slater, SNJM, Bookkeeper (206-622-3559 x3974)  
Linda Carr, Office Manager (206-622-3559 x3979)  
Marilyn Maddeford, Receptionist (206-622-3559)

### WEDDINGS

Linda Carr, Wedding Office (206-622-3559 ext. 3979)  
Bev Mauser, Louise Mennella, Wedding Coordinators

### FACILITIES and GROUNDS

Dennis Morse, Facilities Manager (206-622-3559)

### CELEBRATIONS of the SACRAMENTS

#### MASS

Sundays 8 - 10 - 12 & 5:30 pm  
Weekdays 8:15 & 5:30 pm  
Saturdays 8:15 & "Vigil" 5:30 pm

### LITURGY of the HOURS Weekdays at 12:10 pm

### VESPERS and BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sundays at 4:00 pm.

**BAPTISM** Communal celebrations are held monthly. A preparation program for parents and godparents is required. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**RECONCILIATION** Saturdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm. A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated four times yearly in preparation for Christmas and Easter.

**MARRIAGE** A formal program of marriage preparation over a period of several months is required, however, registered parishioners may begin the scheduling process 14 months in advance.

**ANointing of the SICK** A communal celebration is held regularly. In other situations (anticipated surgery, emergency) please call the parish office.

**ECUMENICAL PRAYER** with music from Taizé, Fridays at 6:30 pm.

**TOURS of the CATHEDRAL** Groups of 6 or more may arrange a tour by calling Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284

**CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE** Open 11:00 am to 3:00 pm weekdays, after Masses on weekends. Call 206-382-4500 for information

### ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL PARISH

804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104  
Telephone: 206-622-3559 FAX: 206-622-5303  
Website: [www.stjames-cathedral.org](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org)  
Emergency Number: 206-467-3049  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**W**ELCOME, SUMMER VISITORS! *St. James is proud to welcome visitors from near and far throughout the summer months. Each week a drawing for a special Cathedral gift will be made from among all the visitor envelopes used. Please write your address on the visitor envelope provided in the pew and drop it with your offering into the collection basket. Thank you for adding to the power of our prayer by your presence in our midst today. Last weekend, we had visitors from San Anselmo, CA; King George, VA; and Seoul, Korea, to name a few. The winner of our drawing was from Florissant, MO.*

**FLOWERS** at the North Transept Mary Shrine are from the Saturday wedding of Rachel Boll and Bradford Moodie. Flowers at the altar are in memory of Daniel Robinson-Leon from the Quintana-Leon family. *If you would like to make a floral offering, contact Kay Kaiser, 206-654-4650.*

**THE CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE** Visitors, stop by the bookstore today for a great selection of Cathedral souvenirs... CDs, postcards, note cards, books, mugs, magnets, and more! Also, Pope Benedict XVI's new encyclical, *Charity in Truth*, is in!

**SUMMER CHOIR** All are welcome to come and sing with the St. James Summer Choir at the 12:00 Noon Mass on Sundays, August 23, and 30. Rehearsal is at 11:15am in the Choir Room in Cathedral Place. The entrance is up the stairs on Terry Avenue. No audition or previous vocal or choral training required. *Information 206-382-4874.*

**PRAYER WITH MUSIC FROM TAIZÉ** Each Friday at 6:30 pm in the Cathedral, all are invited to join in an ecumenical service of readings, silence, candlelight, and the music of the ecumenical community of Taizé in France. This simple, reflective prayer is the perfect way to end a busy week.

**10TH ANNUAL SUMMER FILM FESTIVAL** Join us Tuesday, August 18 (*note date change!*) at 7:00pm in Cathedral Place, second floor for the last film of the summer: *Gran Torino*. A crusty, inflexible Korean War veteran must confront his Hmong immigrant neighbors—and his prejudices—when the family's teen son tries to steal his beloved *Gran Torino*. Walt soon assumes the unlikely role of guardian angel to him and his family bringing about reconciliation and his own redemption. Rated R. Popcorn and lemonade will be provided and you are welcome to bring your favorite movie treats. *Information, Helen Oesterle 206-382-4514 or hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org.*

**PARISH REMEMBRANCE** *Throughout the year because we are the Cathedral Church, we remember in prayer at Mass and Vespers each of the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Seattle on a Sunday near their feast day. This week we remember in prayer the parishes of Queen of Heaven in Tacoma; Queen of Angels in Port Angeles, and Mary, Queen of Peace in Sammamish.*

**NEW ON THE CATHEDRAL WEBSITE** Visit [www.stjames-cathedral.org](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org) to explore our special Choir Camp page, with photos, stories, audio clips, and more. You can also read—or listen to!—Father Ryan's homily of last Sunday online. Why not make St. James your homepage?

**SUMMER GUITAR CONCERT** Mark Hilliard-Wilson, Cathedral Guitarist, presents the annual summer guitar concert in the intimate acoustics of the Cathedral Chapel. Friday, August 28, 7:45 pm. Suggested donation \$15, students and seniors pay as able. *Information* 206-382-4874, or [www.stjames-cathedral.org/music](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org/music).

**WALKING WITH OUR LADY** The Health and Healing Committee invites you to walk for your health to shrines of Our Lady around the world. Our goal is to collect 18,000 miles and to "travel" from St. James to Fatima and Lourdes! If you signed up at the Health Fair May 5, you can bring your mileage record to Cathedral Hall the first Sunday of each month during coffee hour. Or, if you'd like, you can e-mail them to Pastoral Care Minister John Simpson. *Information*, John Simpson 206-274-3173 or [jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org).

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?** You are invited to participate in the RCIA, a process of initiation into the Catholic community of faith. It is a process which encompasses the study of Scripture, Catholic teaching, and Christian values—the development and deepening of a life of prayer and action—all with the support and involvement of the parish community. A new inquiry session will begin on Wednesday, September 9. *Information*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514, [hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:hoesterle@stjames-cathedral.org). Or check out our website: [www.stjames-cathedral.org/RCIA](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org/RCIA)

**I AM IN YOUR MIDST  
AS ONE WHO SERVES**  
*Volunteer Opportunities*

**GIVE THE GIFT OF HELLO!** Seeking ESL tutors for low-income adults in Auburn, Burien, Kent, Renton, SeaTac, South Seattle, and Tukwila. Refugees and immigrants are our new neighbors. Will you welcome them? *Information*, Cecilia Erin Walsh 206-382-4511 or [cwalsh@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:cwalsh@stjames-cathedral.org).

**SANDWICH MAKERS NEEDED** Our sandwich ministry for the St. Martin de Porres Shelter has recently added a second day of service and is in need of volunteers to help make sandwiches for the **4th Monday** of each month. This is a great ministry for families and those with busy schedules. *Information*, e-mail Tara Carr at [sandwich.volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:sandwich.volunteers@gmail.com).

*Sacred Steps*

**Sacramental Celebrations at St. James**

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to *Claire Chimenti* and *Jonathan Tran*, married in the Cathedral on Saturday, August 8. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their new lives together.

**HUNTHAUSEN DINNER AND AUCTION** The annual Hunthausen Dinner and Auction will be held on Monday, September 28, 2009, at the Inglewood Golf and Country Club in Kenmore, Washington, beginning at 5:30pm. This is a fun evening that benefits Cathedral outreach ministries. Please consider joining Archbishop Hunthausen, Archbishop Brunett, and Father Ryan for a lively auction and a great dinner! Visit [www.stjames-cathedral.org/golf](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org/golf) for registration materials. *Information*, Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284 or [mLaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:mLaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org)

**SUMMER TOURS** During the summer months, June, July, and August, we offer a tour of the Cathedral every Wednesday at 1:00pm. This is a great way to show out-of-town guests your Cathedral! *No reservations required.*

**FOUNDATIONS IN FAITH—WHAT DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BELIEVE AND WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IT MY LIFE?** What does the Catholic Church believe and what difference does it make it my life? Using the Bible, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Church documents, this adult enrichment program will explore the Catholic interpretation of scripture, key theological concepts, and the history of the Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for an in-depth look at Catholic teaching and its implications for our everyday lives. Classes this year include Israel's Sacred History, Morality, Christology and Church, Sacraments and Liturgy, Gospel of John, and Council of Trent/Vatican II. You can come to one or all classes. Classes take place on 9/20, 10/18, 11/22, 2/21, 3/7, 3/21 and 4/18 at St. Peter's in Beacon Hill from 1:30-5:30 PM. Cost: \$5 per class. (Cosponsored by St. James Cathedral with the South Seattle Deanery) *Information*, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514.

**FUNERAL PLANNING** Many people have questions regarding funerals—questions ranging from the Church's position regarding cremation and burial to how and when funerals are scheduled and celebrated in the Cathedral. Since the time of the death of a loved one is likely to be very emotionally draining, it is clearly not the best time for dealing with such questions. In an effort to help parishioners be prepared ahead of time, the Cathedral offers a simple little booklet that can be obtained by calling the parish office. It is also available at our parish website, [www.stjames-cathedral.org/funerals](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org/funerals).

# *Just*FAITH

*Our Catholic faith and biblical tradition extend an extraordinary invitation to become agents of God's compassion and healing in a wounded world. The Gospel is both a comfort and a promise for the poor and, at the same time, a call to those of us who are not poor to be linked with God's vision of justice and reconciliation.*

## **What** is JustFaith?

- JustFaith is a conversion-based process that provides an environment in which participants can grow in their commitment to care for the vulnerable and to become advocates for justice.
- JustFaith offers an opportunity for participants to experience a spiritual journey into compassion.
- JustFaith provides a lively and challenging format in which participants read, discuss, pray, and experience situations that allow them to be formed in the Catholic social justice tradition.

## **Why** JustFaith?

- Most of us long to be generous and compassionate people. JustFaith offers an opportunity to strength and deepen our compassion, in fidelity to the Gospel.
- Engaging in the Church's social mission is, without argument, one of the most challenging messages of our Gospel tradition. JustFaith recognizes the difficulty of the call to compassion, and provides a wide range of compelling resources to communicate this tradition.

## **How** does JustFaith work?

- JustFaith employs a variety of media and formats – prayer, retreats, books, videos, discussion in a small group of 12-15 people, and hands-on experiences. The intent is to provide a tapestry of learning and formation opportunities that explore the justice traditions of the Church.
- JustFaith involves a **substantial commitment**, to the process and to the group. The process involves thirty weekly sessions, two retreats, and four hands-on experiences. In addition, participants are expected to do two to three hours of reading per week. **The program asks a lot. Just as the Gospels do.**
- JustFaith offers participants the privilege of developing community as they journey through the program. **Participants should come ready for conversion!**

***Come learn more at an Information Night  
Monday, August 17, 6:30 pm, Pastoral Outreach Center***

The program will be held on Wednesday evenings at St. James Cathedral  
Contact Patty Bowman at 206-382-4515 or [pbowman@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:pbowman@stjames-cathedral.org)

JustFaith Ministries works in partnership with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development,  
Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services.





Washington State  
Catholic Conference

From “*Evangelium  
Vitae*”: Chapter III

Public authority must redress the violation of personal and social rights by imposing on the offender an adequate punishment for the crime, as a condition for the offender to regain the exercise of his or her freedom. In this way authority also fulfils the purpose of defending public order and ensuring people's safety, while at the same time offering the offender an incentive and help to change his or her behavior and be rehabilitated.

[T]he nature and extent of the punishment must be carefully evaluated and decided upon, and ought not go to the extreme of executing the offender except in cases of absolute necessity: in other words, when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society. Today however, as a result of steady improvements in the organization of the penal system, such cases are very rare, if not practically non-existent. (56)

The Washington State Catholic-Conference (WSCC) represents the Catholic Bishops of Washington State: Archbishop Alex J. Brunett of the Archdiocese of Seattle, , Bishop William S. Skylstad of the Diocese of Spokane, Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla S.J., of the Diocese of Yakima, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo M.Sp.S., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle and Bishop Joseph J. Tyson, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

JUNE 2009

## A PASTORAL STATEMENT ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN WASHINGTON STATE

As eight men await execution in our state, Catholics and all people of Washington are confronted with unanswered questions regarding capital punishment. Is it fairly applied? Are innocent people executed? Are our motives revenge or safety? Is the punishment of death a cost effective means of ensuring public safety?

In May, 2009, the courts heard arguments on whether the method of execution in Washington is cruel and unusual. While acknowledging that the crimes of murder committed by those awaiting execution are indeed cruel, we believe that the court decision presents us with an opportunity to thoughtfully consider our state's pursuit of justice in capital cases. We, the bishops of Washington State believe it is an appropriate time to restate the reasons for our opposition to the death penalty and reaffirm our faith and teaching on the issue of capital punishment.

First and foremost our pastoral responsibilities call us to comfort and care for victims' families, friends and loved ones in response to the crime of murder. In keeping with our call as disciples of Jesus, we bishops have committed the pastoral resources of our parish communities to care for those who have been deprived of the life of a loved one by an act of violence. We reaffirm our commitment to console these secondary victims of murder by ensuring a welcoming presence within the Church to love and support them. We also join our voices with all other citizens in the demand that all of us be protected from those who would commit murder.

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*“[T]here is a growing tendency, both in the Church and in civil society, to demand that [the death penalty] be applied in a very limited way or even that it be abolished completely.”*

*(“Evangelium Vitae”: Chapter III)*

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We are keenly aware that some consider our opposition to the death penalty a muted response to the crime of murder because it falls short of the demands of true justice. Despite our opposition to the death penalty as a punishment for murder, we neither condone any crime of violence nor suggest unmitigated leniency for those who commit such crimes. Our respect for human life compels us to condemn the crime of murder unequivocally, and we give our full support to the development of effective sentencing alternatives for this most grievous crime.

### **“I CAME SO THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE”**

When someone is murdered, their death cries out for a response, but violence in response to violence only perpetuates the illusion that cruelty and the taking of human life can balance the scales of justice. We therefore call upon Catholics, all citizens and our state leaders to search for appropriate methods to protect innocent life from those who would commit murder. We pledge our assistance for every effort to obtain justice based on respect for human life and the inherent dignity of every person. As we have in the past, we acknowledge that in the most extreme cases of violent murder, the sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole can be an appropriate sentence.

### **Catechism quotes:**

Assuming that the guilty party's identity and responsibility have been fully determined, the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.

If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person.

Today, in fact, as a consequence of the possibilities which the state has for effectively preventing crime, by rendering one who has committed an offense incapable of doing harm—without definitively taking away from him the possibility of redeeming himself—the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity “are very rare, if not practically non-existent.”  
(CCC 2267)

In order to establish sentences for violent crimes that meet the demands of justice, our efforts must reject state-sponsored killing. The Church recognizes that circumstances may exist in which the state could be forced to exercise its right to use the death penalty to protect the community. We therefore acknowledge that right. In the past, when life imprisonment was an impractical option to protect society, the Church permitted the execution of murderers while cautioning civil authority that every effort must be made to protect the innocent and punish the guilty without resorting to the death penalty. In recent times, as the need for capital punishment to protect the public has become increasingly rare, the Church has spoken out consistently for abolition of the death penalty and for exclusively nonviolent means of punishing the crime of murder.

We also must recognize the inherent flaws in all human efforts to establish true justice. These flaws are evident in the cases of innocent people who have been wrongly convicted of crimes in the past. When a travesty of justice robs an innocent person of their freedom for any length of time, we rightfully feel a sense of shame. But when our justice system denies an innocent person their inherent right to life, we have an urgent responsibility to amend the law. We also must acknowledge that our system of criminal justice, which reflects the highest standard of human rights by comparison with virtually all other models, nonetheless executes racial minorities, the poor and the mentally ill in disproportionate numbers. The Church has a preferential concern for those who are most vulnerable and marginalized, and we cannot ignore the absence of clear and convincing evidence that these statistics are not the result of biases based on race, mental competence or economic status.

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*“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”*  
(John 10:10)

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### **“CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH...”**

The foundation of our teaching on the issue of life is drawn from Scripture and tradition. From the creation account in the Old Testament (Gn 2:7) to Jesus’ proclamation of his redemptive mission (Jn 10:10), Scripture teaches that God is our Creator and that every person has been made in the Creator’s image and likeness so that they might have life in abundance. We therefore affirm the inherent dignity of every human person regardless of their age, stage of human development, usefulness or behavior – no matter how violent or reprehensible that behavior may be. As we noted in our 2000 pastoral letter calling for the abolition of the death penalty: “Each individual person’s life is a priceless gift from God” and as faithful followers of Jesus, we are called to uphold the sanctity of all human life.

As Jesus’ disciples, we are called to do more than simply profess our faith. Just like those who encounter the presence of God and the person of Jesus in Scripture, we too are called upon to make a response that reflects our commitment to act as a result of our encounter. In response to our understanding of the inviolable dignity of all human life, we must act to comfort the victims of violence, their families, friends and loved ones. We have an obligation to seek justice without seeking revenge, and we must offer a consistent witness to the love and mercy of God.

In conclusion, as pastoral leaders for the Catholic people in Washington State we call for a moratorium on executions until the many questions surrounding capital punishment can be answered. As we did almost 10 years ago, we commit ourselves to the pastoral support of those who have lost loved ones to murder, and we offer our support for sentencing reform efforts that will ensure true justice for victims and protection for citizens while respecting all human life. We ask that Catholics pray, study and reflect on Church teaching about the dignity of human life, and we ask public officials to dedicate themselves to the eradication of violence in the cause of justice.