

A Sample Letter to Governors
Based on letters by
Catholic Mobilizing Network

Dear Governor _____,

I am writing to you to express my concern regarding the execution of _____ scheduled for _____. I urge you to grant clemency to Mr./Ms. _____.

I do not forget the pain endured by his/her victim(s), [give name(s)], or do I forget the grief and suffering of his/her/their family and loved ones. As a person of faith, I pray for continued healing.

I do not, however, condone this person's potential execution as a form of justice. I ask that you grant clemency to _____.

At the center of my Catholic faith is the belief in the sanctity of life and the inherent dignity of the human person. This dignity is inviolable and cannot be lost even after the commission of a serious crime. As St. John Paul II said, "The dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil." This means we recognize the God-given dignity of _____ despite the terrible nature of his/her crime. Life is a gift from God, and no one has the right to take the life of another – even in state-sanctioned executions.

Please, stop the execution of _____ and grant clemency.

Thank you for your consideration of this request

Sincerely,

Signature

A Sample Letter to the President
Based on letters by
Catholic Mobilizing Network

Dear President _____,

At the center of my Catholic faith is a respect for the inviolable dignity of the human person and a belief that all people should be afforded the opportunity for redemption — including those who have committed grave harm.

I thank you for espousing opposition to capital punishment which you showed during your campaign, especially in light of the unprecedented spree of federal executions carried out during the years 2017 to 2021, following a 17-year hiatus from this heinous practice.

I know there are many pressing matters to address. I earnestly request that you to count the abolition of capital punishment among them by immediately suspending all federal executions and taking steps toward:

- Declaring an official moratorium on executions at the federal level
- Commuting the sentences of all those currently on federal death row
- Advocating to end the death penalty in law with Congress and the states

President _____, my Catholic faith compels me to “work with determination for [capital punishment’s] abolition worldwide”(Catholic Catechism 2267). Please act swiftly to dismantle the fatally flawed federal death penalty system and uphold the sacred dignity of every person.

Sincerely,

Signature