

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



October 13, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Please stay the execution of Norman Grim and commute his sentence

Dear Governor DeSantis:

We write to ask you to grant a stay of the execution of Norman Grim and to commute his sentence to life without parole.

Mr. Grim was convicted of and sentenced to death for the first-degree murder of Cynthia Campbell in 1998. We mourn the tragic death of Ms. Campbell, and we feel sorrow for the terrible suffering her loved ones have had to live with ever since. May they find comfort in God. Indeed, the Church remains available to assist them with pastoral care.

Mr. Grim's crimes were heinous, and it is right that the state should punish them severely. Nevertheless, even as we pray for the repose of the souls of the victims and for the consolation of their survivors, we ask that you spare Mr. Grim's life. Every human life, given by God, is sacred.

Again and again, we see the same life patterns of individuals abused as children, exposed to harmful substances which seriously damage their capacity for moral virtue, and suffering from mental problems. These factors do not mean that these individuals lack any responsibility at all for their crimes, but they do diminish culpability and highlight how the death penalty is not a solution to these types of depraved crimes.

The death penalty is unnecessary. There is a way to punish without ending another human life: life-long incarceration without the possibility of parole. It is a severe yet more humane punishment that ensures societal safety.

We appeal to you that it is possible both to achieve the purposes of punishment and to exercise mercy. We can entrust the final judgment of every individual to God. We pray for the repose of the soul of Ms. Campbell and for the consolation of her loved ones. We pray for you, too, as you consider this request.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Sheedy

cc: Jason Weida, Esq., Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the Governor
Catholic Bishops of Florida