

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



August 11, 2025

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

Re: Please stay the execution of Kayle Barrington Bates and commute his sentence

Dear Governor DeSantis:

We write to ask you to grant a stay of the execution of Kayle Barrington Bates and to commute his sentence to life without parole.

Bates was convicted and sentenced to death for the first-degree murder of Janet Renee White in 1982. He was also convicted of kidnapping, attempted sexual battery and armed robbery. We mourn the tragic death of Ms. White, and we feel sorrow for the terrible suffering her husband, Randy, and 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.

Bates' actions were horrific. It is entirely proper for the state to punish crimes of this nature very severely. Nevertheless, even as we pray for the repose of Ms. White's soul and for her husband's consolation, we urge you to spare Mr. Bates's life. Every human life, given by God, is sacred.

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, offers finality much more quickly than a death sentence, and allows the guilty the possibility of repentance.

We pray for Mr. White and the rest of Ms. White's surviving loved ones. We pray for you, too, Governor, as you consider this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael B. Sheedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael B. Sheedy

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