



Association of
Catholic Mental
Health Ministers



CLICKTOPRAY



Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network

Monthly Mental Health Day of Prayer

September 2022 - Abolition of the Death Penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 - DAILY MOMENTS

WITH JESUS IN THE MORNING

I thank the Lord for those in positions of civil authority who respect the dignity of the human person. Today is the monthly day of prayer for mental health and Pope Francis' prayer intention this month is for the abolition of the death penalty. Many people are jailed because of behaviors caused by their mental illnesses. Today's Gospel recalls the centurion of great faith and authority "with soldiers subject to" him who used his authority wisely. May those in authority wisely see that regardless of a person's mental health or criminal behavior that those who are imprisoned are God's children. Our Father ...

WITH JESUS IN THE AFTERNOON

Take a moment to draw your heart nearer to the Heart of Jesus Christ. The Way of the Heart recognizes that we live in a broken world, yet because of Christ we have hope. This month Pope Francis asks to pray that the death penalty be abolished. "There is no fitting punishment without hope!" says Pope Francis.

WITH JESUS IN THE NIGHT

God has been present to you today and is with you now as you rest. Be thankful for when others treated you with dignity today. Ask for forgiveness if you did not treat someone you encountered with the dignity they deserve as a child of God, particularly those who are struggling with mental health challenges. Ask God to help you remember those who are jailed because of behaviors caused by their mental illnesses. As we pray with Pope Francis this month for the abolition of the death penalty, ask what can you do to support a more merciful criminal justice system? Hail Mary ...

SCHOOL OF PRAYER CARD

Prayer for Mental Health Ministry in the Church

We pray that mental health ministry becomes an integral ministry in the Church that is available in every Catholic parish and community. We pray for the elimination of the stigma and discrimination that people living with a mental illness encounter.

Monthly day of prayer for Mental Health - September

We pray for the abolition of the death penalty. Those with severe mental illness are some of the most vulnerable in society, and those most affected by the death penalty. While communities must be protected from criminal behaviors caused by mental illness, may the offenders also receive the mental health care they need, not just punishment.

As Pope Francis states, ‘The firm rejection of the death penalty shows to what extent it is possible to recognize the inalienable dignity of every human being’

The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers (<https://www.catholicmhm.org/click-to-pray>)

SOCIAL MEDIA POST

Pray for the abolition of the death penalty.

“There is no fitting punishment without hope!” Pope Francis

BLOG

Title: *The death penalty and mental health*

Press Summary: *Those with Severe Mental Illness are most affected by the death penalty. May they receive the mental health care they need, not just punishment.*

Those with Severe Mental Illness are some of the most vulnerable in society, and those most affected by the death penalty.

Studies have found that juries can “view people with mental illness as intrinsically dangerous,” thus bringing “a significant risk” that a death sentence may be imposed because of – not simply in spite of – a defendant’s mental illness.”¹

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops recognized that “crimes are sometimes committed by individuals suffering from serious mental illness. While government has an obligation to protect the community from those who become aggressive or violent because of mental illness, it also has a responsibility to see that the offender receives the proper treatment for his or her illness.”²

Mentally ill inmates need mental health care and not just punishment. “Far too often mental illness goes undiagnosed, and many in our prison system would do better in other settings more equipped to handle their particular needs”, conclude the US Bishops.

As Pope Francis states, ‘The firm rejection of the death penalty shows to what extent it is possible to recognize the inalienable dignity of every human being and to accept that he or she has a place in this universe’³

Deacon Ed Shoener, President
Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers
<https://www.catholicmhm.org/click-to-pray>

¹ American Bar Association, Death Penalty Due Process Review Project, December 2016

² Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice. A Statement of the Catholic Bishops of the United States. Issued by USCCB, November 15, 2000.

³ Fratelli Tutti, no. 269