

# The Death Penalty and the Church

*"If bloodless means are sufficient to defend human lives against an aggressor and to protect public order and the safety of persons, public authority must limit itself to such means, because they better correspond to the concrete conditions of the common good and are more in conformity to the dignity of the human person."*  
- St. John Paul II

Starting Easter Monday eight men are scheduled to be executed by the State of Arkansas. Four double executions are scheduled through April 27, an unprecedented act for our state and nation.

Bishop Anthony B. Taylor is asking all Catholics to contact Gov. Asa Hutchinson to commute the death sentences to life without parole for Don Davis and Bruce Earl Ward (scheduled to be executed April 17), Ledelle Lee and Stacey Johnson (scheduled to be executed April 20), Marcel Williams and Jack Jones, Jr. (scheduled to be executed April 24), Jason McGehee and Kenneth Williams (scheduled to be executed April 27).

Convicted of terrible acts, each of these men has a God-given right to life. The gift of life should only be taken by God

## Prayers for the victims

Pray for the 10 victims of the crimes committed by these men and for the healing of their family and friends. We cannot know fully the pain their loved ones will feel the rest of their lives. May they experience the overwhelming mercy of our God.

*Jane Martha Daniels, Rebecca Lynn Dos, Debra Reese, Carol Heath, Lorraine Anne Barrett, Stacy Errickson, Cecil Boren, Jerrell Jenkins, Dominique Hurd and John Melbourne Jr.*



*For more information on the Church's teaching on the death penalty and other action steps you can take, visit [dolr.org/Halt8in10](http://dolr.org/Halt8in10)*



*"I know that Arkansas is not governed by the teaching of the Catholic Church, but the intrinsic, God-given dignity of the human person applies to everyone."*

- Bishop Anthony B. Taylor's letter to Gov. Asa Hutchinson

## TAKE ACTION

Call, write or email Gov. Asa Hutchinson. Send him the message, "As governor, you have the legal authority to stop the executions you scheduled. I urge you to commute their death sentences to life without parole. It is time for Arkansas to abolish the death penalty."

[governor.arkansas.gov/contact-info](http://governor.arkansas.gov/contact-info)  
(501) 682-2345

State Capitol Room 250  
500 Woodlane Ave.  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Attend the rally on the Capitol steps in Little Rock with Bishop Taylor to oppose the executions: 1:30 p.m. Good Friday, April 14

Pray for end to the death penalty and pray those who are scheduled to be executed, the victims and their families and our governor