

We Cry Out for Life



States that have not executed anyone for years have begun doing so again. During this holy time while we wait for the Light of the World to dispel the darkness, we are called to stand with people who wait in the darkness of death row. We don't condone their acts of violence and criminality, nor ignore the pain they have caused, but we also recognize the inviolable human dignity of these prisoners, fellow children of God.

Recently one death row prisoner, Julius Jones of Oklahoma, was saved from execution when the governor commuted his sentence just a few hours before he was scheduled to be killed. Let us keep believing in the power of not being silent. Let us be a voice crying out in defense of life.

We again call on Governor Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma to grant clemency, as recommended by the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board, for death row prisoner Bigler Jobe Stouffer, who is scheduled to be killed on Thursday December 9. Please write to the governor using this link:

www.catholicmobilizing.org/action/2021-11/stop-execution-bigler-jobe-stouffer

The Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole is deciding right now the fate of Gerald Pizzuto, a terminally ill man on death row in that state. Please write to them and Governor Brad Little at the link below, asking them to allow Gerald, who is on hospice services, to die of natural causes.

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/hes-already-in-hospice-stop-the-execution-of-gerald-pizzuto-jr-in-idaho/>

**“...JESUS is HERE with us.
Yes, we have a sense of waiting,
hoping and yearning
for a complete realization
of the Kingdom,
and yet we know it will come
because we can celebrate Him here
right now.”**

**-Sr. Dorothy Kazel
American missionary
martyred in El Salvador,
December 2, 1980**



JESUS MAFA. The birth of Jesus with shepherds, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48387>
Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr>

“Consumerism is a virus that tarnishes faith at its root, because it makes you believe that life depends solely on what you have, and so you forget God who approaches you and who is beside you. ... [T]oday it is our task to watch, to keep watch: to overcome the temptation of thinking that life means accumulating... the meaning of life is not to accumulate, it is up to us to unmask the deception that we are happy when we have many things, to resist the dazzling lights of consumerism, which shine everywhere this month, and to believe that prayer and charity are not time wasted but rather the greatest of treasures.” –Pope Francis

Shop Like a Christian

During these Advent days, we're called to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Gift buying isn't our main focus, but it is one part of this season for many of us. Instead of getting caught in BUY-BUY-BUY consumerism, let's take the opportunity to buy less, love more. But when we do purchase things, let's also make that an act of love, using our money to advance the Common Good and help our neighbors, instead of simply ignoring the workers who make and sell the things we buy.

You Have Power: Do Something Good with it

Use your **spending power** to build up the reign of God that Jesus came to establish. Don't buy products made in sweatshops that exploit workers and destroy their dignity and health. Don't increase the gap between rich and poor. Instead:

***Support small, locally owned businesses and artisans**
They're your neighbors. They keep wealth local. They deserve your support after the economic pain caused by the pandemic.

***Support businesses with a social mission like**
www.koinoniafarmstore.com

Koinonia, a [Christian farm community](#) in Georgia, established in 1942, has always stood for racial equality and justice

***Support U.S.-based manufacturers**
<https://www.theunionshop.org/about-us/>

***Support Fair Trade items**
These are products made by workers in poor countries who receive a just wage under safe working conditions. They can be found in local Ten Thousand Villages stores, the web sites listed below, and many other places.

www.fairindigo.com/ www.serrv.org/
<https://stores.silkroadmkt.com/>
www.haenow.com/shop/



A Christmas Gift for Your Local Economy

Want to help keep the owners and employees from local businesses in your town employed?

Want to help ensure your local and state governments collect enough sales tax so they can fund social services for local youth, elders and low income people?

**Support Local Businesses!
Boycott Amazon!**

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