

September 9, 2020

Most Reverend Robert Barron
Santa Barbara Pastoral Region
3240 Calle Pinon
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Dear Bishop Barron:

We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in the Los Angeles Province, are compelled to live our identity as a Congregation of the Great love of God and our charism to always move towards a love of God and neighbor without distinction. Therefore, we voice a strong opposition to the death penalty.

It is difficult for us to understand why you would consent to be the keynote speaker at the Christifidelis Laici Award ceremony where Attorney Barr is receiving an award at a Catholic Prayer Breakfast. You are giving legitimacy to a man who is either unaware of church teaching on the death penalty or has disregarded the sacredness of all human life. Attorney General Barr has scheduled federal executions and his position on the death penalty directly opposes Church teaching. Pope Francis recently updated Catholic teaching on the death penalty, stating that, in light of the teachings of Christ, this deliberate taking of life is "an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the human person."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops stated in their Pastoral, *A Culture of Life and the Death Penalty*: "We reaffirm our common judgment that the use of the death penalty is unnecessary and unjustified in our time and circumstances." In February 2020 the USCCB issued *In Forming Consciences for Faith Citizenship*. In this pastoral is the statement: 'Catholic teaching about the dignity of life calls us to.... end the use of the death penalty' (45)

We affirm our belief that all life is sacred and therefore oppose the death penalty and challenge those who support it.

Sincerely,
The Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Sr. Patricia Nelson

Sr. Adele O'Sullivan

Sr. Mary Ann Martin

Sr. Maureen O'Connor

Sr. Kathryn Mary Stein