

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



December 7, 2018

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Please commute Jose Antonio Jimenez' death sentence to life without parole

Dear Governor Scott:

As we asked in August, please commute Jose Antonio Jimenez' death sentence to life without parole. He was convicted of the tragic 1992 murder of Phyllis Minas. We pray for Ms. Minas and for consolation for her loved ones. All of us are called to stand with victims in their hurt as they seek healing and justice. We invite people across Florida to join in this prayer.

Both victims of crime and offenders are children of God and members of the same human family. We appreciate your difficult task as governor and still must ask you to commute this death sentence, and all death sentences, to life without the possibility of parole.

Reflecting the growing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of great crimes and that more effective forms of detention have been developed to ensure the due protection of citizens without definitively depriving the guilty of the possibility of redemption, Pope Francis recently requested reformulation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* on the death penalty (cf. CCC #2267). For an increasing number of Christians, the death penalty is inadmissible.

As Floridians gather in prayer for Ms. Minas, her family and friends, and all affected by violent crime, we also invite them to pray for you as you consider this request. We also pray for Mr. Jimenez and all those facing execution.

Sincerely,

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

Michael B. Sheedy