

## JSRI Supporters,

**Pope Francis has dedicated September as a month to pray for the end of the death penalty and to increase efforts to abolish its use throughout the world.**

Please [watch](#) this beautiful video where the Holy Father reminds us that the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the sanctity of life, promotes vengeance, and is legally unnecessary.



Since our inception JSRI has been working to end the death penalty in Louisiana. In a [2012 JSRI report](#), then JSRI Fellow Alex Mikulich and abolition advocate Sophie Cull concluded that “the commitment to life, to the prospects of the poor, and to the problems of inequality requires Louisiana’s Catholics to reject Louisiana’s death penalty system because it is marred beyond repair by racial injustice, the marginalization of the many, and premised on the promise of retribution rather than the possibility of redemption.”

Louisiana leads the nation per capita in wrongful death sentences. Who receives a sentence of death in Louisiana is extremely arbitrary and highly correlated with race of the victim, geography, mental illness, and a handful of harsh judges, incompetent defense lawyers, and aggressive prosecutors. Based on [research](#) conducted by Loyola Law Professor Bill Quigley and retired Judge Calvin Johnson, for a person sentenced to death in Louisiana after July 2019 the state would pay approximately \$281 million for the trial, appeals, and execution.

On Tuesday, September 20, at 10:30 AM Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, will present a keynote address to the leadership of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference on ending the death penalty in our state. You may view her talk via Zoom at this [link](#) or use the following information:

Meeting ID: 856 4748 3908

Passcode: 864891

Please also take the [pledge](#) to end the death penalty in Louisiana at the LA Repeal website. JSRI works closely with LA Repeal, and the contact information you provide will help us engage you in upcoming abolition advocacy efforts.

And please continue to pray that state-sanctioned killing will one day soon be abolished in Louisiana and across the world.

Thank you!

**Sincerely,**

Sue Weishar, Ph.D.

JSRI Fellow

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