



“Save the Date(s)” - April 16 or 17, 2013

Tues., April 16 – Faithful Citizenship Lunch, St. Joseph, Bardstown: Noon to 1:00
 St. James, Elizabethtown: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Wed., April 17 – Maloney Center, 1200 S. Shelby St., Louisville
 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. OR 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

A collaborative effort of Catholic Conference of Kentucky, Family Ministries - Pro-Life, Office of Lifelong Formation & Education, and Catholic Charities

Preparing Catholics for informed involvement in campaigns to repeal state death penalty laws.

“The death penalty no longer serves a useful purpose in protecting society, and it ends the offender's opportunity for conversion, halting the action of the Holy Spirit on their soul for eternity.” USCCB



The Archdiocese of Louisville welcomes Cathy Jarboe, Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty

Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN) works in close collaboration with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to prepare Catholics for informed involvement in campaigns to repeal state death penalty laws and expand or inaugurate restorative justice programs.



Catherine Jarboe is CMN’s Director for Catholic State Networks and Organizations. She works within states that have imminent legislative action or where Catholics have expressed an interest in ending the death penalty. Cathy also works with state Catholic conferences, diocesan offices, parishes, ecumenical groups, and secular organizations – such as the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Equal Justice USA and others – to advance our vision of repeal together.

For more information contact:
 Sharon Schuhmann, Pro-Life Coordinator / Family Ministries: 502-636-0296; sschuhmann@archlou.org
 Maureen Larison, Consultant for Adult Formation / OLFE: 502-448-8581; mlarison@archlou.org
 Rev. Pat Delahanty, Executive Director, Catholic Conference of Kentucky: 502-875-4345; delahantyp@bellsouth.net
 Regarding Faithful Citizenship Lunch, contact Sr. Mary Schmuck, 502-331-4545, schmuckrsm@scnazarethky.org

There is no cost for this event; however, the favor of replying if you plan to attend would be greatly appreciated.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Parish / Agency: _____

Please Indicate: April 16: St. Joseph, Bardstown Noon to 1:00 or St. James, E-Town 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
 April 17: Maloney Center, Louisville 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. OR 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Mail, email, or fax to: Sharon Schuhmann, Maloney Center, 1200 S. Shelby Street, Louisville, KY 40203
 sschuhmann@archlou.org Fax: 502-636-2379

A reflection on the death penalty.

John Pfister, Seminarian, Diocese of Evansville, IN - Saint Meinrad Seminary

The Friday before we left for Christmas break I received three Christmas cards in the mail. In the weeks after Thanksgiving, I received many cards, most from strangers and school children in my diocese with holiday greetings. Offering encouragement, praise and thanks, each is a testament to the love of our one, holy, and Catholic apostolic church. But on that day, there were only three.

As I opened each card, I saw the unfolding mystery that is the connectedness of Christ in the lives of the faithful, and the beautiful power of the Presence of God in my own life.

The first card I opened was hand-made and crayon-colored. It was one dimensional, a green circle with four straight lines proceeding from it. One of the lines had a yellow ball on the end. The lines were cream colored, except for one that was maroon. Being clueless, I showed it to several guys in the hall before it was identified as an advent wreath. Silly me, of course it is an advent wreath. Opening it I saw proclaimed in large one-inch tall block letters, "MERRY CHRISTMAS JOHN!" the obvious work of a first-grader. There was no indication of who sent this miniature masterpiece. Wow! How humbling is that?

The second card I opened had the image of a beautiful stained-glass window. Joseph and Mary gaze lovingly down at the Christ child sitting on Mary's lap. Beautiful pastel shades of translucent glass, the sunlight streaming through, reflecting the love of family. A glance at the back showed the window was in the Old Cathedral, the oldest church of my diocese. Inside laid the Christmas wishes of my great Bishop. Wow! How humbling is that?

I opened the third card and saw a magnificent angel, soaring below the Star of David and above Bethlehem, blowing a trumpet. Beneath her was Isaiah 9:6, "For a child is born unto us...these will be his royal titles, wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Inside the card lay the simple message, "I hope you are doing well, I wish you a blessed and joy-filled Christmas, I would love to hear from you again, warmest regards, David". Wow! How humbling is that?

I have never met David face-to-face. We have been pen pals shorter than a year, at the request of Sister Rita Claire of the Daughters of Providence. David is my age and had he graduated from High School, he would have been in my class. He is a convert with a great zeal for Christ. His personal lay ministry involves counseling young men to their new situation, acknowledging personal culpability, accepting their path, and allowing Christ's healing presence into their heart. This is no small job for the faint of heart. Wow! How humbling is that?

All the cards reminded me of Christ's love for me, but the last card was the most humbling. Soon thereafter, I prayed with Christ exposed in the Blessed Sacrament and wrote a long letter to David explaining some of the changes in my life since we shared letters last summer. Shortly thereafter, I received a second card bearing a beautiful picture of Christ the High Priest. The sentiments were again simple, thankfulness for sharing, gratefulness for direction from the Almighty, laughter at our common method for nighttime noise reduction, and acknowledgement of our roles in our respective institutions.

With three glorious cards you may ask why David's was the most humbling. Well, David sits on death row along with 3000 plus Americans. In 2012 forty-three people were executed. Their ages ranged from 34 to 63 years old. Two of the forty-three volunteered to die, while forty-one desired life, even life behind bars. Since 1976 America has executed 1200 men and women.

Catholic Social Teaching teaches us that life and the dignity of the individual is sacred from conception to natural death. Blessed John Paul II repeatedly asked all the governments of the world for a moratorium on the death penalty. Last September as we approached the Year of Faith the USCCB issued a beautiful prayer calling for an end to the death penalty. It begins:

"Merciful Father, we ask your blessing on all we do to build a culture of life. Hear our prayers for those impacted by the death penalty. We pray for all people, that their lives and dignity as children of a loving God may be respected and protected in all stages and circumstances. We pray for victims of violence and their families, that they may experience our love and support and find comfort in your compassion and in the promise of eternal life...."