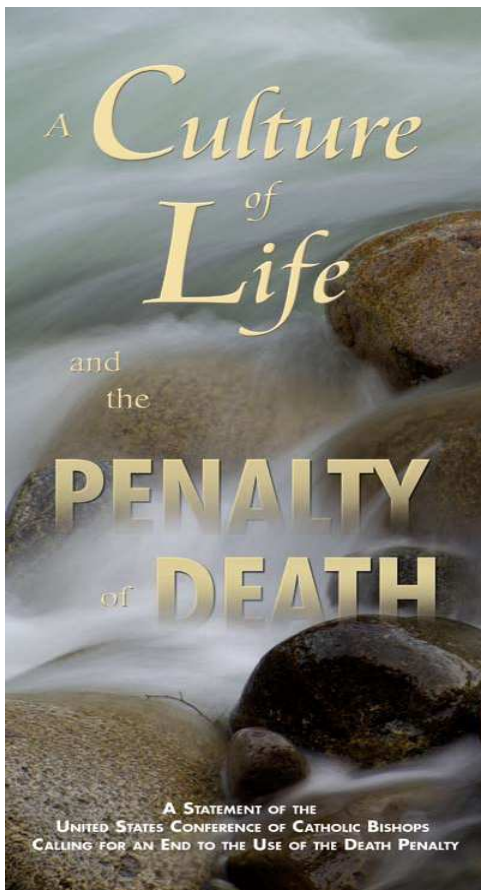


**ACTION ALERT—DECEMBER, 2005**  
**GOOD SHEPHERD VOICES FOR JUSTICE**  
**Choose Life – Oppose the Death Penalty**

---

**BACKGROUND**

Twenty-five years ago, The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) first called for an end to the death penalty. They have recently renewed this call in order to seize a new moment and new momentum with the release of their document “A Culture of Life and the Death Penalty”.



In this document, the USCCB reaffirms their common judgment that the use of the death penalty is unnecessary and unjustified in our time and circumstances. They state that our nation should forgo the use of the death penalty because:

- The sanction of death, when it is not necessary to protect society, violates respect for human life and dignity.
- State-sanctioned killing in our names diminishes all of us.
- Its application is deeply flawed and can be irreversibly wrong, is prone to errors, and is biased by factors such as race, the quality of legal representation, and where the crime was committed.
- We have other ways to punish criminals and protect society.

+                      +                      +

(See next page for action details)

Just three weeks ago, a Wisconsin state legislator revealed his intentions to reignite the death penalty debate in Wisconsin. State Sen. Tom Reynolds, R-West Allis, announced he is seeking co-sponsors for the legislation, which would reinstate capital punishment in Wisconsin. Senate President Alan Lasee, R-DePere, said he would support such legislation, adding he co-authored a bill with Reynolds, which was introduced early in the year, calling for a referendum on the issue.

### **ACTION 1**

This month, we are asking you to consider two actions.

1. Go to the USCCB website <http://www.usccb.org/news/index.shtml> and download the USCCB document "A Culture of Life and the Death Penalty". (On the left side of webpage) Please read and reflect on the Bishop's call to choose life. (If you do not have web access contact the Good Shepherd parish office for a copy.)
2. eMail, call or write your Wisconsin legislators letting them know that you oppose the death penalty and as your elected official are asking them to oppose this new legislation. To learn who your legislators are, and to receive their contact information, go to <http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm>.



+ + +

Content for this Action Alert was provided by:

<http://www.usccb.org/>