

## **Taking a Stand Against the Death Penalty**

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The Rule of our order tells us Secular Franciscans that, “*especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith*” (Art. 15). We can do so both individually and collectively. In this spirit, the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region recently signed an open letter to President Biden, calling on him to commute the death sentences of all the men and women currently on federal death row. This letter, organized by Death Penalty Action, is in response to the announced plans by President-Elect Trump to resume federal executions and to “empty” death row. Hundreds of organizations, including some Catholic groups, churches and religious orders, have signed this letter.

By joining them, the Region is furthering Catholic teaching, which is opposed to the death penalty. As the Catechism states, “*the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person’, and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide*” (par. 2267).