



Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. St. Paul reminds us that God Himself "did not spare His own Son." Are *my* gifts to the Lord —of my resources, of my time, of myself —also sacrificial?

Who will condemn?—Romans 8:34

The Death Penalty. Life in prison is a nightmare for those who commit crimes. Imagine what it's like for those who are in prison for a crime they did not commit.

The North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence, which coordinates the Innocence Projects® at each of North Carolina's law schools, is dedicated to investigating post-conviction claims of actual innocence from unrepresented North Carolina inmates.

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

And consider these words from a victim's family... "No one in our family ever wanted to see the killer of our brother & his wife put to death. We felt instinctively that vengeance wouldn't alleviate our grief. We wanted this murderer in prison so he could never hurt another person. But wishing he would suffer & die would only have diminished us & shriveled our own souls. Hatred doesn't heal. Every time the state kills a person, human society moves in the direction of its lowest, most base urges. We don't have to make that choice. Our lawmakers have the capacity to help us abolish the death penalty & along with it, the fantasy that it will make the pain go away." —*Mary Bosco Van Valkenburg, whose brother & sister-in-law were murdered* www.usccb.org/deathpenalty

As Joseph Cardinal Bernardin stated, on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, to the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate Washington, D.C., Sept. 28, 1989: "We believe human Life is so precious that the state should not take the Life of any person, even one who has taken another life. Society must send a message that we can break the cycle of violence, that we need not take Life for Life."

www.usccb.org/sdwp

God sent his only begotten Son to be in solidarity with sinful humanity not to condemn. As His followers, we must do the same. Consider joining "People of Faith Against the Death Penalty" <http://www.pfadp.org/> OR, closer to home consider joining Yokefellow Prison Ministry. In response to the call & the example of Jesus Christ, the purpose of YPM is to develop personal relationships between inmates & volunteers, individually & in community, which will create a nurturing, nonjudgmental environment in which each will feel free to examine & share their lives & thereby experience the forgiveness, healing, & power of God's love. Contact OLL Prison Ministry Coordinator, John Tector at 577.0578 or john_tector@ncsu.edu

Barbara Molinari Quinby, MPS, OLL Stewardship Council

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Feed-A-Family Food Drive**



Sat. March 10 & Sun. March 11

Grocery bags will be handed out after all Masses.

Sat. March 17 & Sun. March 18

Food will be collected before & after all Masses

No time for shopping?

Make your check payable to Catholic Parish Outreach, & give it to a volunteer at the CPO truck during the food drive. Thanks to food donations & CPO's volume buying power, **a donation of \$25 feeds family for one week.**

- CPO is the largest food pantry in the Triangle
- **85% of CPO's food is donated**
- **CPO gave a week's worth of groceries to over 10,00 people in January 2012**
- CPO distributed 2.5 million pounds of groceries to an average of 8,700 people a month in 2011
- During Thanksgiving week 2011, CPO served a record 270 families in a single day
- Clients are eligible to receive a week's worth of groceries every 30 days
- CPO met these needs with 2 staff people & 1300 volunteers

Fair Trade Coffee & Donuts



Sundays after the 9:00am Mass, enjoy coffee, donuts & fellowship in the Fallon Center Hall. This is a great way to meet new parishioners & catch up with friends in our parish family. If your organization would like to serve at a coffee, email Bob at breiland@nc.rr.com.

Newcomers Welcome Lunch

Please join us for food & fellowship following the 11:30am Mass, **Sunday, March 25** This is a great opportunity to learn about our parish & to meet some of our pastoral staff & other new parishioners. Childcare available. Call 861.4600 to make a reservation.

Living Stewardship Now

What matters above anything else in your life? Is it a person, material things, your health & comfort, your career? Be absolutely honest! Is God at the center, or off to one side?