

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CATHOLIC MOBILIZING NETWORK
WASHINGTON, D.C.
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Dear brothers and sisters, on behalf of the Holy Father, I want to express the spiritual closeness of Pope Francis to all of you who contribute to the faithful work of the Catholic Mobilizing Network. As the Pope wrote in his Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*:

“The firm rejection of the death penalty shows to what extent it is possible to recognize the inalienable dignity of every human being and to accept that he or she has a place in this universe” (N. 269).

Thank you for this opportunity to pray with you and to offer a few remarks. I will say a prayer that is similar to the Holy Father’s prayer at the end of the aforementioned encyclical, *On Fraternity and Social Friendship*.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Lord God, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity,
and you sent your Son to reconcile us to yourself
when we had wounded that dignity by our sin.**

**Pour into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire us to dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice, and peace.**

**Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without violence and vengeance.
May our hearts be open to your gift of mercy,
both for ourselves and others.**

**Pour out your blessing upon all who are gathered here,
and all who are part of the Catholic Mobilizing Network.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, make their work fruitful
in bringing about restorative justice, promoting reconciliation,
and forging bonds of unity.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Again, I think you know how close your mission is to the heart of the Holy Father, who has taught clearly that “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person” (*Catechism*, 2267). Thanks to God, this truth is finding acceptance among many people. In his Prayer Video for September 2022, Pope Francis said:

“Each day, there is a growing ‘NO’ to the death penalty around the world. For the Church, this is a sign of hope.... Let us not forget that, up to the very last moment, a person can convert and change.... The commandment, ‘Thou shalt not kill,’ refers to both the innocent and the guilty. I, therefore, call on all people of goodwill to mobilize for the abolition of the death penalty throughout the world. Let us pray that the death penalty...may be legally abolished in every country.”

Your Network continues to respond to this call of the Holy Father through your faith-filled education, advocacy, and prayer. Be encouraged by remembering that, to the extent that you are setting out each day from your own personal encounter with Christ, your activity will be more than ordinary social work. It will be a participation in the very mission of Christ, who “came that they may have life, and have it to the full” (*JOHN* 10:10). Because it is Christ’s work, you may be certain that, in spite of any number of obstacles, opposition, and even failures, your work will be taken up by the Father and transformed into glory when the Kingdom of God is brought to its completion.

In the assurance, then, that God is with you in your good work, and that his own Spirit advocates for you: Be of good cheer! And enjoy God’s blessing which he so freely bestows upon all his children.

Thank you.