



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 222-3803 * www.flaccb.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2026

Contact: Michele Taylor
(850) 205-6817
mtaylor@flaccb.org

Florida Catholic bishops urge Governor DeSantis to stay execution of Curtis Beasley

Every human life, given by God, is sacred

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Florida's Catholic bishops have urged Gov. Ron DeSantis to halt the September 29, 2026, scheduled execution of Curtis Beasley and commute his death sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Beasley was found guilty of the 1995 first-degree murder of Carolyn Monfort.

Michael B. Sheedy, executive director of the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, made the request in a letter to DeSantis. The letter acknowledges the severity of the crime and the suffering of Monfort's family while urging the governor to consider mercy alongside justice.

"This call is not on the basis of sympathy for the criminal but on the love of God for sinners and the unalienable value of human life," Sheedy wrote.

Citing St. John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, Sheedy reaffirmed the Church's consistent teaching on the sanctity of human life and the dignity of every person, emphasizing that "not even a murderer loses his personal dignity."

The appeal to spare Beasley's life follows the release of the bishops' pastoral letter on the death penalty in Florida. In their pastoral letter, the bishops call on Catholics and all people of good will to recognize the inherent dignity of every human life, including the lives of those who have committed grave crimes.

The Catholic Church teaches that the death penalty attacks the inviolability of the human person. The alternative of lifelong incarceration without the possibility of parole is a severe punishment that protects society while respecting the inherent dignity of the offender.

As the execution approaches, Catholics and others are invited to pray for the soul of Carolyn Monfort, for Curtis Beasley as he faces execution, and for Gov. DeSantis as he considers the request to spare Beasley's life.

[Read the full letter to Gov. DeSantis.](#)

[Read the Florida bishops' pastoral letter on the death penalty.](#)

#

The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is an agency of the Catholic Bishops of Florida. It speaks for the Church in matters of public policy and serves as liaison to the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. The archbishop and bishops of the seven (arch)dioceses in Florida constitute its board of directors.