



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

I write today to provide you updates. I will continue to keep you informed during this challenging time.

Statement from the Office of Life Issues of the Archdiocese of Washington Regarding the Execution of Mr. Daniel Lee

On Tuesday, July 14, the federal government ended an 18-year-long moratorium on the federal death penalty with the execution of Daniel Lewis Lee. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the dignity of the human person is never lost, even in the most serious crimes, stating, "the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person" (CCC, 2267).

Four federal prisoners are scheduled to be executed this summer including Wesley Purkey, whose execution is scheduled for Thursday, July 16.

The death penalty brings social harm that must be recognized. A disproportionate number of people of color and persons with intellectual disabilities are unjustly sentenced to the death penalty and executed each year.

As Catholics, we are called in prayer and action to oppose injustice which stands in conflict to our belief in the dignity of all persons, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or social status.

Opportunity Scholarship Program

The Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) provides scholarships that allow low-income families living in the District to choose private—often Catholic—school for their child. Currently, 95% of participating children are African-American or Hispanic, and the average income for participating families is less than \$27,000 per year.

This past week, Congresswoman Norton **released a statement** saying OSP is "imposed on the District" and has "failed to improve academic achievement." Congresswoman Norton opposes enrolling new students into the program and endorses language that would preclude participating schools from continuing to serve the 1,700 students in the program.

Many parents and families benefit and want the opportunity to participate in the OSP program. We would be grateful if you would consider circulating **this petition** asking Congresswoman Norton to support OSP—a program that is a lifeline for many families in the District.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website in response to the coronavirus is updated regularly with information, in English and Spanish, for you and the Faithful available at **adw.org/coronavirus**, which includes a link to find a listing of live stream Masses and prayers available at **adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/**. The *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers are currently available online at **cathstan.org** and **elpreg.org**.

As ever, should you have questions or need assistance from my office or the Pastoral Center, please let us know. Please be assured of my prayers for you.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,
Reverend Daniel B. Carson
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia