



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) 205-6820 * www.flaccb.org

**Florida Bishops Appeal to Governor Scott to Stop
Execution of David Alan Gore**
April 11, 2012

The Bishops of Florida ask you, Governor Scott, to resist the natural instinct to punish the evil deeds of David Alan Gore with the ultimate penalty –death by lethal injection. Gore’s heinous crimes have terribly wronged the victims and their families. We, too, feel the anger, revulsion. But responding to murder by killing the criminal sanctions violence. The claim for justice needs to be balanced by mercy. Society can be protected and justice served by keeping Mr. Gore in prison until his natural death.

Our hearts were touched by the soul wrenching stories about the six women who died at his hands. We pray for consolation for their families who have suffered, knowing the pain their loved ones endured at the hands of Mr. Gore. Revenge does not bring peace, only forgiveness as proclaimed by our Lord on the cross when he said, “Forgive them, Father! They don’t know what they are doing.” (Lk 23:34)

All human life has dignity and is sacred, created in God’s image, even those who have done great harm. Violence begets violence and coarsens the culture so that life is no longer valued as a gift from God. Today, we are able to protect society and also give criminals a chance to reform and repent. Governor, we ask you to stay the execution of David Alan Gore.

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski
Archdiocese of Miami

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito
Diocese of Palm Beach

Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch
Diocese of St. Petersburg

Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane
Diocese of Venice

Most Reverend John G. Noonan
Diocese of Orlando

Most Reverend Felipe J. Estévez
Diocese of St. Augustine

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee