



El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty August 2010 Newsletter

Impending Executions

08/17 Peter Cantu

10/14 Gayland Bradford

10/21 Larry Wooten

Vigils are held in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 6:00 p.m. each night there is a scheduled execution in Texas.

Monthly Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, August 16th at St. Pius X Catholic Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Juan Diego Room. St. Pius is located just south of Bassett Center at 1050 N. Clark St. The church is reached by exiting Interstate-10 at Geronimo, traveling south (away from the mall) on Geronimo, and making a right turn at N. Clark St. The Juan Diego room is in a house across the street from the main church building.

EPADP to make presentation on faith and the death penalty

Fr. Dennis O'Mara and Karen Peissing-Venhaus will make a bilingual presentation on the Catholic Faith and the Death Penalty to the ACTS and Just Faith ministry groups at St. Pius X Catholic Church on Saturday, August 14th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Guadalupe Room. Ms. Peissing-Venhaus is the coordinator of El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty (EPADP). Fr. O'Mara is a Columban Missionary and a member of EPADP. He has a long history of promoting issues of peace and social justice, including the repeal of the death penalty. If you would like to assist at this event, please contact Karen (elpaso@tcadp.org or (915) 740-7076).

EPADP named full chapter of TCADP

The board of directors of the Texas Coalition Against the Death Penalty (TCADP) recently approved an application from El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty (EPADP) to become a full-fledged chapter of TCADP. This new relationship with TCADP will free EPADP from many administrative duties and allow us to focus more efforts on direct action towards repeal of the death penalty in Texas.

TCADP Executive Director Kristin Houle writes, "Such great news! Please convey my appreciation to everyone in your chapter for their openness to making this change, which will be tremendously beneficial to both EPADP and TCADP. We look forward to furthering our relationship with our amazing El Paso members!"

EPADP Member Appears on Radio Program

On Tuesday, July 20th, EPADP Member Charles Doyle appeared on the radio program *Execution Watch*. The hour-long radio show hosted by Ray Hill is held each night Texas has an execution scheduled. An archive of this show can be heard at the [Execution Watch website](http://www.executionwatch.org/m3u.php?id=79) (<http://www.executionwatch.org/m3u.php?id=79>).

Juan Melendez Speaking Tour Taking Shape



Plans are progressing for El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty's three day speaking tour on September 25-27 featuring Juan Melendez. Melendez will speak at St. Pius X Catholic Church on Sunday, September 26th at 2:30 p.m and at the EPCC-Transmountain Campus on Monday, September 27th at 10:00 a.m. We anticipate adding two to four additional events to this tour. If you would like to assist in any way, please e-mail [Karen Peissinger-Venhaus](mailto:karen@tcadp.org) (elpaso@tcadp.org).

Melendez was wrongfully convicted of murder and spent over seventeen years on Florida's death row before finally being exonerated and released from prison in January of 2002. Since his release, Melendez has been actively involved in the movement to repeal the death penalty. His story is detailed in the film *Juan Melendez-6446*.

Vigils to be Held Against the Death Penalty

The Criminal Justice Ministry of Saint Patrick's parish and EPADP, in solidarity with other groups throughout the state, hold a vigil on each day the state of Texas has an execution scheduled. Prayers are offered in remembrance of the murder victim and all victims of violence; for the family and friends of the murder victim; for prison officials, correctional officers, and others witnessing the execution; for the family of the condemned; for the person to be executed; and for an end to the death penalty in a quiet service including music, spoken words, and periods of silent reflection. In the month of August, a vigil will be held in the Chapel at St. Patrick's Cathedral on the 17th beginning at 6:00 p.m. The vigil will last approximately 30 minutes.

Literature Tote Bags Available

EPADP maintains tote bags filled with literature from TCADP and other organizations who support repeal of the death penalty. If you are interested in staffing a literature table at a local event or in providing literature to your civic or faith-based organization, a tote bag can be checked out from these EPADP members:

[Matthew Venhaus](mailto:matthew@tcadp.org) (Northeast, matthewvenhaus@hotmail.com),
[Charlie and Pat Doyle](mailto:charliepatd@sbcglobal.net) (Westside, charliepatd@sbcglobal.net), or
[Sr. Phylis Nolan](mailto:phylnolan@hotmail.com) (Central, phylnolan@hotmail.com).

Texas Democrats Endorse a Moratorium on Executions

Texas Democrats at their State Convention held in Corpus Christi June 25-26 adopted a party platform that includes a call for a moratorium on the death penalty. Delegates expressed concern over the possibility that innocent individuals have been put to death, supported the establishment of a commission to study the death penalty, and called for several specific reforms. The full resolution can be read on the [Texas Democratic Party website](http://www.txdemocrats.org/issues/public-safety/) (<http://www.txdemocrats.org/issues/public-safety/>, scroll down to the section labeled Capital Punishment).

Send Birthday Cards to Death Row

The death row inmates listed below are celebrating a birthday in July. They may especially appreciate receiving a card or other personal note during this time.

Cards to these inmates should be addressed:

Offender Name and TDCJ #

Polunsky Unit

3872 FM 350 South
Livingston, TX 77351-8580

8/02 John Battaglia #999412

8/03 Randall Mays #999535

8/04 Roy Smith #974

8/05 Rigoberto Avila, Jr. #999391

8/08 Manuel Garza, Jr. #999434

8/08 Miguel Paredes #999400

8/09 Kent Sprouse #999471

8/10 Terry Edwards #999463

8/10 Walter Sorto #999465

8/11 Pablo Vasquez #999297

8/11 Adam Ward #999525

(Polunsky unit continued)

8/11 Obie Weathers #999396

8/12 Barney Fuller #999481

8/12 John Rubio #999462

8/14 Arthur Brown #999110

8/14 Tarus Sales #999446

8/17 Steven Long #999514

8/19 Jeffery Wood #999256

8/20 Guy Alexander #948

8/20 Nelson Gongora #999452

8/20 Charles Hood #982

8/20 Bernardo Tercero #999369

8/21 Joe Garza, Jr. #999354

8/21 Clifton Williams #999515

8/24 Hector Medina #999547

8/25 Ray Jasper #999341

8/25 George McFarland #999046

8/27 Timothy Adams #999448

(Polunsky unit concluded)

8/28 Danny Bible #999455

8/28 Brian Davis #999036

8/28 Santos Minjarez #999445

8/31 Paul Devoe #999550

8/31 Larry Hatten #999181

8/31 Marby Landor III #999556

Cards to these inmates should be addressed:

Offender Name and TDCJ #

Jester IV Unit

4 Jester Rd.

Richmond, TX 77406

8/07 John Selvage #652

8/19 Nelson Mooney #868

El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty

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