



Circular No. 2016-57

7 December 2016

TO: ALL CLERGY, SUPERIORS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES (MEN AND WOMEN), AND HEADS OF SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MANILA
RCAM'S PRAYER AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

Dear Monsignori, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

In the name of His Eminence Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle and of the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Manila, I am forwarding to you the Prayer Against the Death Penalty for the Archdiocese of Manila.

This prayer can be said either before the Mass or after the post-communion prayer, or you may opt to incorporate it at the Prayer of the Faithful of all Masses beginning tomorrow, December 8, 2016, and all through the Christmas Season.

Thank you very much and God bless!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(signed)

REV. FR. REGINALD R. MALICDEM
Chancellor

Enclosure: Prayer Against the Death Penalty

PRAYER AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

Archdiocese of Manila

Leader: Father, source and giver of life, we lift our hearts and voices to you. Help us to build a society that truly chooses life in all situations.

Let our response be: Lord, heal our pain.

For those experiencing pain and anguish because of violence and crime,
Lord, heal our pain.

For perpetrators and victims of atrocities who both struggle with anger and hatred,
Lord, heal our pain.

For our broken world, enchained by the desire for revenge,
Lord, heal our pain.

For our wounded society misled by the illusion that one must take life in order to defend it.
Lord, heal our pain.

Leader: Let us say together: Help us to make peace.

For our country, tempted to accept violent revenge.
Help us to make peace.

For the conviction to recognize and uphold the dignity of all people.
Help us to make peace.

For the wisdom to see poverty, injustice and lack of educational and employment opportunities as likely causes of criminality,
Help us to make peace.

For guidance and compassion in addressing the pain of both victims and perpetrators of wrong-doing,
Help us to make peace.

For the fortitude to find solutions that protect the dignity of all people and bring

about true reconciliation.

Help us to make peace.

For the inspiration to renew society on the basis of love and restorative justice.

Help us to make peace.

Leader: Let us pray

Father of compassion,

You let your rain fall on the just and the unjust.

Give us a heart like yours

so that we may love as You love,

even those who have caused us pain.

There is in our land a cry for vengeance and

a move to fill up death rows and kill offenders

but disguised as a call for justice.

Let true and lasting justice spring forth.

Jesus, our brother,

you suffered execution in the hands of the powerful

but you did not let hatred overcome you.

Help us to reach out to victims of violence

so that our enduring love may help heal their wounds.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life

You strengthen us in the struggle for justice.

Help us to work tirelessly against state-sanctioned death

and to renew society in truth, justice, love and respect

so that violence will cease and peace may prevail.

Amen.

O Mary, Mother of Life, protect the Filipino people from the forces of death.

San Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

San Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.

Ref.: <http://www.rcam.org/news/1876-archdiocese-of-manila-releases-prayer-against-death-penalty>

Look also www.humanrights.aboutphilippines.ph