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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES Connections

SUPPLEMENT TO ARKANSAS CATHOLIC • CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS • 2415 N. TYLER ST. • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72207 • NOVEMBER 28, 2015

## AT A GLANCE Catholic Charities of Arkansas serves

- **Adoption Services:** Birth parent services, adoptive family services and search and reunion
- **Immigration in Northwest Arkansas:** Family-based legal assistance, domestic violence and crime victims services, refugee resettlement, employer trainings, education and advocacy, legal assistance with applications for DACA
- **Immigration in Little Rock:** Family-based legal assistance, domestic violence and crime victims services, supporting survivors, legal assistance with applications for DACA, education and advocacy
- **Parish social ministries:** Parish-based ministry development, disaster recovery parish-based teams, emergency assistance
- **Social Action:** Prison ministry, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, legislative advocacy, alcohol and drug, Catholic Charities Summer Institute
- **Westside Free Medical Clinic:** Medical and dermatology clinics for noninsured adults, outreach and community education
- **Development:** Grants management, Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic, Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl and St. Nicholas Partners

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**CATHOLIC CHARITIES' MISSION STATEMENT**  
 The mission of Catholic Charities of Arkansas of the Diocese of Little Rock is rooted in the challenge of the Gospel: To serve persons who are poor or marginalized; to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable; and to actively promote charity, justice, and the sanctity of life in the Church and the community.

## Grants expand help for immigrants

### Access to legal service helps clients get better jobs

**W**ith the increase in Arkansas' immigrant population, there is an increased need for immigration legal service providers.

"Our area has seen a significant influx of immigrants in the last decade," said Maricella Garcia, director of Catholic Immigration Services - Little Rock, "as part of a trend throughout the region."

From 2000 to 2010, Arkansas ranked fourth among the immigrant population growth with the foreign-born population increasing by 82 percent. Immigrants in 2010 made up 5 percent of the total population of Arkansas. Although immigration has slowed to Arkansas just as it has nationally since the recession, Arkansas has experienced an 11-percent growth, which is about double the experience nationwide (5 percent). Most other southeastern states also continued to experience relatively strong immigrant population growth after 2007. Between 2000 and 2009, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Mississippi collectively have seen a 24-percent increase in the number of immigrants from 31.1 million to 38.5 million.

However, this growth in the immigrant population hasn't been followed by an increase in immi-



*Georgina Pena began her new duties as an immigration specialist for Catholic Immigration Services - Little Rock through a grant from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. Pena joined the staff in 2012*

gration legal service providers. Access to immigration legal services is critical because help obtaining legal status that may lead to better jobs and stronger integration, in turn helps to build a stronger

Arkansas. In Arkansas, the Diocese of Little Rock is the only Board of Immigration Appeals-recognized agency to represent low-income immigrants in the state. The office in Little Rock has been especially

pressed to outreach to immigrants in the communities outside of central Arkansas because the staff only has one attorney and one BIA-

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## Governor can practice mercy during Year of Mercy

**T**hirty-two people are on death row in Arkansas. Eight men have been scheduled to die, but await a court challenge to the means proposed to kill

them. Most probably their legal challenge will fail. Only Gov. Asa Hutchinson stands between them and death.

In the United States, there are two systems of justice. The civil system protects individual interests. The criminal system protects society. The criminal system may not be used as a tool of personal vengeance.

In criminal cases, only four factors that may be argued during a sentencing hearing after conviction:

- The rehabilitative potential of the guilty person
- Protection of society from the person convicted
- Deterrence: both the specific deterrence of the person convicted and the general deterrence of others
- Just social retribution

The legal sentencing factors compare favorably with the Church's teachings.



**From the Director**  
 Patrick Gallaher

The Church promotes using the criminal system as a general deterrent and to protect society. The catechism teaches that "public authority has ... the duty to inflict punishment proportionate to the gravity of the offense." It firmly teaches that a key purpose of the criminal system must be the correction of offenders.

The catechism allows the death penalty only where there is no question of guilt and where there is no other possible way to prevent the guilty person from taking other lives in the future. Thus, the Church, while conceptually permitting the death penalty, allows it only under the strictest of circumstances and then only as a last

resort where non-lethal means are insufficient to protect society.

Why does Arkansas allow the death penalty? It does not rehabilitate. The state runs an expensive modern penal system that can keep even dangerous criminals safely locked away. Execution deters the convicted killer, but its general deterrent value is questionable. The imposition of the death penalty is a disproportionate use of power. Rather than being just, it has become a tool of personal vengeance to placate families of murder victims. As much as one may sympathize with these families, vengeance is not a

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# Three groups who must get a flu shot

**Flu is risky for all, positively dangerous for some people**

By Karen DiPippa

In the health world, fall is the start of flu season. Actually, the flu season starts earlier every year it seems.

Now is the time to consider getting your flu shot or inoculation if you haven't already received it. Flu was detected in Arkansas in October. With December through February being the peak flu time, vaccinating is the best protection against the flu virus.

Flu is generally spread by drops when people sneeze, cough or talk while less often it can remain on inanimate surfaces.

You do not receive the flu with the vaccination. It merely activates your own system to produce antibodies for flu fighting. Sometimes, you feel a little off, but it is not the flu, just your body getting itself ready to fight the flu should you come in contact with it.

Healthy people who contract flu usually have a miserable week and are inconvenienced but also have a chance of more severe symptoms, depending on the flu strain itself. Those particularly at risk for complications are:

- People with compromised health conditions like diabetes,

heart disease or asthma

- The elderly or young children
- Pregnant women

Possible complications of flu include bacterial pneumonia, ear and or sinus infections and dehydration, as well as worsening the symptoms of any of the above chronic conditions.

Keep in mind it takes about two weeks to develop the antibodies necessary to fight the flu.

There are a few groups of people who should not get the flu vaccine:

- Those with a life-threatening allergy to the flu vaccine or any ingredient like gelatin or eggs. A recombinant vaccine is available for people with egg allergies because it does not use eggs to make it.

- Anyone younger than six months

- Anyone with a history of a condition called Guillain Barre' syndrome

All others should check with their physician.

Last of all, even without insurance, the cost of flu vaccine is a mere \$15 to \$20 at the pharmacy of your choice if you happen to miss the free health fairs given across the state.

Hoping you have a healthy winter season.

*Karen DiPippa is the director of Westside Free Medical Clinic in Little Rock.*



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## BRIEFS

### THE SEASON FOR GIVING

As we approach Advent, Christmas and the New Year, it is the season of giving. There are a number of ways to give through Catholic Charities:

- **Catholic Campaign for Human Development:** On Nov. 21-22, there was a second collection for the CCHD. While the bulk of this collection is sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 25 percent remains in Arkansas for use in the local grant program administered by Catholic Charities of Arkansas. This collection funds anti-poverty programs across the nation, as well as within the state.

- **St. Nicholas Partners:** The annual mail-in campaign that benefits all of the programs of Catholic Charities. This year's St. Nicholas card and envelope were inserted in last week's issue of *Arkansas Catholic*.

- **Catholic Adoption Services:** The annual adoptions appeal supports women in crisis pregnancies considering adoption.

- **Catholic Charities Vehicle Donation Program:** The new program allows for the donation of all types of used vehicles in any state of repair. The process is easy, free and earns a tax

deduction. Proceeds for donated vehicles support all of the programs of Catholic Charities.

### PERSONNEL CHANGES

Georgina Peña has moved from her position as office manager for the immigration office in Little Rock to become an immigration specialist in that same office.

Bridget Lewis, a parishioner at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Little Rock, has become the new office administrator for Catholic Charities of Arkansas.

Sam McFall, in his final year as a student at the William Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, completed a semester-long externship with Catholic Charities as a legislative researcher.

Emmanuel Torres, a seminarian and a senior in the UALR School of Social Work, is a bachelor of social work intern with Catholic Charities for the 2015-2016 school year. He is assigned duties with Catholic Adoption Services, Parish Social Ministry Office and the Westside Free Medical Clinic.

### SPECIALTY CLINICS

Westside Free Medical Clinic would not be able to operate

at Camp Aldersgate since 1982 without the assistance of several medical specialists.

Rheumatologist Dr. Eleanor Lipsmeyer sees patients at the Aldersgate site and Dr. Don Greenway sees patients at his private office of gastroenterology. Ellen Lamb and Sonya Miller complete the staff as pharmacists.

Along with the general medical practice, the specialty clinics for Westside clinic have been expanding. Several of the clinics, which operate in the evenings at St. John Center and Camp Aldersgate, are fairly new so little is known about them.

- The otolaryngology clinic, better known as an ENT (ear, nose and throat) clinic, is just getting off the ground. Dr. Joe Colclasure saw 13 patients for the last quarter of the fiscal year and already has seen 16 patients in this first quarter with expectations of a volume increase. This clinic is held at Westside Clinic on Aldersgate Road.

- The chiropractic clinic operates with the assistance of Dr. Rick Riley. He treated 21 patients last fiscal year and the clinic anticipates an equal or greater number this year.

- The dermatology clinic

remains steady with a patient case of about 75 patients. Dr. Rene Bressinck is current physician following Dr. Mike Carney who began seeing patients at St. John Center.

- The ophthalmology clinic was set up by Dr. Jerry Shue and is currently attended by Dr. Tom Cannon. The clinic performs diabetic retinopathy exams to ensure eyesight is on track for diabetic patients. In the last fiscal year 121 patients were seen. Before this clinic, Dr. Dan Hennesy and his office treated the Westside patients for various eye concerns and continue that assistance today.

### FAIR TRADE SALE

A Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Sale will be held Dec. 2-4 in Morris Hall at St. John Center in Little Rock. The sale will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

Sale items from 15 different countries include coffee, scarves, jewelry, soap and Christmas ornaments. Quantities are limited. Only cash or check will be accepted. For more information, call Rebecca Cargile at (501) 664-0340.

## Legal

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accredited representative on staff to represent clients in immigration matters.

This year both the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network have funded the Little Rock office to increase access to immigration legal services to immigrants in Arkansas by funding additional immigration specialists.

This summer, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation grant made it possible for Georgina Peña, the staff's office manager for the past three years, to transition to become an immigration specialist. Pena said she wants to "give voice to the voiceless and help be a light for those who live in the shadows."

Through this grant Pena has already started working on applications to help immigrant victims get work permits, help legal permanent residents renew their green cards and help qualified immigrant youth apply for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. She also helped present information this summer about CISLR services and clients to 90 youth participating in the Catholic Charities Summer Institute.

In response to an increased demand for community-based legal services for immigrants in the U.S. Southeast region, CLINIC is funding 12 fellows in eight states, including one at the Little Rock office, to provide assistance and offer a first line of defense against the unauthorized practice of law.

Catholic Immigration Services hopes to have a fellow in place by Dec. 1. The fellow will focus on outreach to communities that are underserved and work with community partners, such as Arkansas Justice for Our Neighbors and Arkansas United Community

**Peña said she wants to "give voice to the voiceless and help be a light for those who live in the shadows."**

Coalition to provide increased access to quality immigration legal services.

The initiative between Catholic Immigration Services, CLINIC and the new CLINIC fellow will build a stronger safety net of expert legal advice.

Jeanne Atkinson, CLINIC's executive director said, "I am delighted to support efforts by CISLR where they are serving a growing immigrant population. By helping to integrate immigrants in these locations, these fellows will strengthen families and their communities."

# Seminarian learns and serves at the same time



**Seminarian Emmanuel Torres**, studying social work at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, performs client contact duties for Catholic Charities of Arkansas.

## Internship gives social work student practical experience

**E**mmanuel Torres, a 28-year-old from Guadalajara, Mexico, has lived in Arkansas since he was 12 years old.

Many people and experiences have helped to shape the path that Torres has taken. When he was a young boy, his family thought he was going to die from a serious illness. A friend told his mother that he was going to live and do something extraordinary. He and his family journeyed to the United States. He experienced the challenges and rewards of becoming a part of a new country and culture.

A few years after Torres graduated from high school, he was invited to a retreat at St. Joseph Center in North Little Rock where the video "Fishers of Men" was shown. He had recently had meaningful faith experiences that were opening his heart to a new direction in his life. The video stated that be-

coming a priest was something extraordinary. He credits diocesan vocations director Msgr. Scott Friend as one of those special people who has helped him along his path toward the priesthood.

With his guidance, Torres became a diocesan seminarian residing at the House of Formation and studies social work along with his theology and philosophy courses. In addition in his discernment and studies, Torres is also a social work intern with Catholic Charities of Arkansas.

Catholic Charities of Arkansas is a placement resource for undergraduate social work students from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Students from the program are placed in the community for approximately 20 hours a week for their entire senior year. Catholic Charities has participated in the internship program for 3½ years with the primary supervision done by executive director Patrick Galaher and adoption director Antje Harris. The diocese has benefited greatly from the students' contributions while they acquire practi-

cal social work skills outside the classroom.

The students learn from and assist in several departments within Catholic Charities depending on their skills and the needs of the programs. Having bilingual students is especially helpful and Torres has been beneficial, especially for the Westside Free Medical Clinic. He has assisted with phone contacts and interpreting, both in the office and at the clinic.

Karen DiPippa, clinic director, said, "Emmanuel has been a most compassionate, reliable and helpful volunteer for us at Westside Free Medical Clinic. He is a natural in the field of social work."

Torres has also been helpful with emergency assistance phone calls and with the mental health ministry. He has been able to observe the services offered in several departments, including Catholic Adoption Services. He said he hopes his experiences and the social work degree that he will receive in May will be a way he can be of more service with pastoral counseling as a priest.

## Bring the spirit of St. Nicholas to life this Christmas

The 2015 St. Nicholas Partners appeal launched with a special insert in the Nov. 21 issue of *Arkansas Catholic*.

St. Nicholas Partners is an annual appeal to raise money for Catholic Charities' departments and programs. These include adoption services, immigration services, prison ministry, Westside Free Medical Clinic, refugee resettlement and disaster response.

"Partners" can designate which Catholic Charities program they want their contribution to support. Donors are encouraged to make a gift in memory or honor of someone they love. Donations can be mailed to Catholic Charities of Arkansas, P.O. Box 7239, Little Rock, AR 72217-7239.



**Artist Becky Balboa** created the original art for this year's St. Nicholas Partners appeal using color pencils and cut paper.

## Your CCHD gift helps people here in Arkansas

**T**he annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection has been used to fund two anti-poverty grant programs in the state.

### LOCAL GRANTS

This year's recipients of CCHD local grants are serving the poor throughout Arkansas. Checks mailed in July have been put to work by a wide variety of groups serving needs in Arkansas communities.

Applications for the grants were received by the Social Action Office of Catholic Charities of Arkansas starting in January 2015, which made final decisions regarding approval of applications in June. Funds for the grant program came solely from proceeds of the annual CCHD second collection that took place the weekend before Thanksgiving in 2014.

Although grants were given to a range of organizations, an important need for 2015 was food. For a variety of reasons, food programs across Arkansas began experiencing increased demand for services starting in approximately August 2014; that demand continues to this day.

Grants were provided to a number of applicants seeking assistance for food programs. Food pantries at St. John Church in Russellville, Our Lady of Hope Church in Hope, the weekend lunch program at St. Peter Church in Pine Bluff, the family outreach program of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Blessed Sacrament

Church in Jonesboro all benefited from CCHD local grants.

CCHD grants also protected the sanctity of life by supporting the operations of two pregnancy centers. Recipients Heart to Heart Pregnancy Support Center in Fort Smith and Birthright of Little Rock, both strive to offer alternatives to abortion and support mothers in crisis.

Other areas of support include the often-related areas of helping the homeless and those reentering society after incarceration. Jericho Way, the Little Rock day resource center for those without a permanent home, is operated by Depaul USA. Catholic Charities provided a local CCHD grant to assist Jericho Way with its daily operations. Additionally, a CCHD grant to the Arkansas Homeless Coalition provided organizational operating funds. Lastly, Little Rock's Center for Women in Transition received a grant to help women to become productive after they leave jail.

And finally, a grant to Literacy Action of Central Arkansas supports the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program run at St. Edward Church in Little Rock. This program is groundbreaking because English-speaking parishioners are trained to be the ESL teachers. The result is that the whole parish community grows closer.

As in years past, a local CCHD grant will be used to help fund the Catholic Charities Summer Institute, a diocesan social action



**Birthright of Greater Little Rock** received a local grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to support pregnant women in crisis.

summer camp that trains future parish leaders for the Church.

### NATIONAL GRANTS

The CCHD Local Grant Program is just part of the CCHD story. After the annual second collection, 25 percent of the collection proceeds are retained to support the local grants, while the balance of the proceeds are forwarded to the national CCHD office at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The national office then makes large grants back to the states. Last year the Diocese of Little Rock

sent \$60,000 to the national office from the second collection, and two Arkansas anti-poverty groups received \$80,000 in grants from CCHD. They are the Northwest Arkansas Workers Justice Center, \$50,000; and the Gould Organizing Project, \$30,000.

The CCHD local and national grant programs make significant, positive contributions to eliminating poverty in Arkansas. The programs exist only through the generosity of parishioners who donate to the annual second collection to support CCHD.

# Arkansans take disaster readiness home

**National training brings leaders from several dioceses**

**M**aria Vorel, senior vice president for disaster operations of Catholic Charities USA, brought her staff to the Little Rock 4H Conference Center to present disaster preparedness and response training in early November.

Presenters included not only the staff from CCUSA, but representatives from Catholic Charities offices from around the nation with experience in disaster operations. Co-hosted by Catholic Charities of Arkansas, nearly two dozen parishioners and diocesan staff from the Diocese of Little Rock attended. Fifty others came from Catholic Charities across the U.S., including California, Maine, Illinois, Florida, Colorado, Indiana, New Jersey, Virginia, Alabama, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. Even a representative from Caritas New Zealand came for training.

The training ran on three tracks: introductory for parishes, advanced for parishes, and diocesan level. Instruction was supplemented with hands-on exercises and a field trip to the Emergency Operations Center of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management at Camp Robinson. A speaker came from the Department of Homeland Security to discuss domestic terrorism.

The conference, titled the Advanced Institute for Disaster Excellence, ran from Nov. 2 to 6. Bishop Anthony B. Taylor led the conference with prayer after brief opening remarks by Catholic Charities of Arkansas executive director Patrick Gallaher.

The conference emphasized the preferential option for the poor in disaster operations. Fundamentals of disaster preparation and response at both the parish and diocesan level were highlighted. The importance of disaster planning was reinforced.



**Deacon Marcelino Luna** takes a tour of the Emergency Operations Center at the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Nov. 5 while attending the Advanced Institute for Disaster Excellence.

Personal and family planning, planning in the parish and diocese to continue operations during and after a disaster, and planning to provide service to the communities served by the parish and diocese were all covered.

Specialized seminars covered a number of areas: long-term case management, spiritual and emotional care for disaster survivors and responders, post-disaster housing, immigrant, migrant and refugee concerns, volunteer management and managing the media.

Sessions were moderated by experts from Catholic Charities organizations. Damon Britton from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City spoke of experience gained in response to the Moore tornados. Carol Spruell of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge provided insight into the challenge of media relations using examples from Hurricane Katrina.

And Terrie Iacino from Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey discussed parish disaster preparations in light of her experience with earthquakes in California.

Attendees and presenters responded with keen interest. As the week passed, enthusiasm grew as knowledge was acquired and relationships built. Parishioners and diocesan staff became aware of the complexities of disaster response and began to see how each could contribute. By week's end, parishioners returned to their parishes with new insights into how to prepare their parish families and how their parish could contribute to making their surrounding communities more resilient.

Lann Smith of Christ the King Church in Little Rock, and Jim Palmer of St. James Church in Searcy both returned to their parishes with ideas of how to formulate a parish disaster plan.

Gary Wolfer and Tom Donnelly of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Hot Springs Village and Mary Armour of St. Albert Church in Heber Springs returned with ideas on how to better use their parish disaster teams to respond to help affected communities. Deacon Chuck Ashburn took a number of insights, particularly involving the emotional and spiritual care of survivors, pondering how to share the things learned with the other deacons.

Diocesan staff came to see how they could act as resources to prepare the diocese to better serve the parishes and communities impacted by disasters. Tracy Eichenberger, disaster preparedness and response coordinator for Catholic Charities of Arkansas, left the conference with resources at her command and the good will of parishes to allow her to execute disaster planning and operations for the Diocese of Little Rock well into the future.

# Turn your old car into help for the poor

**D**o you have an old car or boat collecting dust? As the new year approaches do not miss the chance to donate a used vehicle to the Catholic Charities of Arkansas vehicle donation program.

Cars, trucks, boats, jet skis, four-wheelers and even planes can be donated. The proceeds of the sale of the donated vehicle go to help Catholic Charities continue to serve the poor in the state.

The steps for donating are easy. Call (844) 534-4483. Be sure to have the vehicle information at hand, such as the Vehicle Identification Number and other data on the title. The call representative will guide you through the donation process, setting up a time and place for the vehicle to be picked up. The vehicle will be towed away for free.

When the vehicle is picked up, a tax document will be provided to allow for the vehicle's value to be claimed as a charitable donation. After the vehicle is sold, if the sale price is more than \$500, a tax doc-



Ivaylo Georgiev / freemages.com

ument with the sales price will be provided to validate an even larger deduction.

Donations can even be made online at [http://dolr-cardonations.org/Vehicle\\_Donations.html](http://dolr-cardonations.org/Vehicle_Donations.html). The Catholic Charities of Arkansas donation support center is ready to handle the stress and take care of all the work.

be protected from these men.

These men are beyond the stage when they can argue for justice. The legal requirements of justice have been met. What can we do for them? We must beg for mercy. There is only one man with power: Gov. Asa Hutchinson. His power to commute is the power of mercy. The governor should exercise the power of mercy.

Write to the governor. E-mail him. Call his office. Talk to him when you see him. Beg for mercy.

*Patrick Gallaher is the executive director of Catholic Charities of Arkansas.*

# Mercy

*Continued from page 9*

rational basis for public policy.

The Arkansas Prosecutors Association supports the death penalty. The essential reason for the support is trial tactics: seeking the death penalty gives the prosecutor a bargaining advantage in pretrial agreement negotiation. It allows the prosecutor to trade the death penalty for a guilty plea and a lesser sentence. This gamesmanship conflicts with the prosecutor's ethical duty to seek justice.

It encourages over-charging of offenses to obtain tactical advantage.

Prosecutors and politicians exploit the plight of victims and their families. The reason behind this exploitation is to use this position as a tool to campaign for electoral office.

The governor of Arkansas must order each execution but has the power to commute the sentence of death. Gov. Hutchinson sees his duty regarding the death penalty as ministerial, limiting the scope of his review to two issues: Whether or not the person facing the death penalty had qualified counsel and whether

actual guilt was established.

There is a tradition among Arkansas governors to sign death orders. Recall then-Gov. Bill Clinton jetting back from his presidential campaign to sign the death warrant of the brain-damaged Ricky Ray Rector. To be pro-death penalty is just one of the practical requirements to be successful politically. But with commutation power, Gov. Hutchinson is not required by law to approve these executions. It will require moral courage for him not to do so.

The eight men awaiting execution have things in common. For each, there is no question of cul-

## HOW TO

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pability. Courts have ruled that each have had adequate representation. Each have made a series of terrible life decisions and have committed numerous crimes. These men have earned punishment from society. Society must