

**Letter to Editor: NOT IN OUR NAMES**  
**submitted 10/5/2012**

**“Let’s not let executions go unnoticed...in all likelihood Donald Moeller and Eric Robert will die this month by your hands, in your name as citizens of South Dakota.” Thanks to Patrick Lalley for his thoughtful, provocative and challenging reflections on the death penalty.**

**On September 22, 150 people gathered in Watertown for the S.D. Pax Christi conference which featured Sr. Helen Prejean, “Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues” and Travis Schulze, Coordinator, South Dakota Alternatives to the Death Penalty (sdadp.org) and others working to end the death penalty. The conference was sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters, Watertown and Presentation Sisters, Aberdeen.**

**Our Presentation Sisters endorsed this statement opposing the death penalty on January 1, 2002:**

**“We, the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Aberdeen, SD, believe that the death penalty is immoral and should be abolished. As women committed to nonviolence, we seek a penal system that supports conversion and reconciliation, rather than one that perpetuates the cycle of violence and vengeance. We believe the death penalty flows from the assumption that problems in our society will be resolved through violent means, which is the same assumption that led to the attacks of September 11, 2001.**

**“We support a consistent ethic of life, believing that all life is sacred from the moment it begins until its natural death. The death penalty promotes the idea that the life of the condemned is no longer sacred in the eyes of God. We believe that all persons are redeemable and loved by God.”**

**Jesus was a victim of the death penalty. We pray and work to abolish the death penalty in the name of our nonviolent Jesus.**

**Presentation Sisters Social Justice Team: Sisters Kay O’Neil, Michelle Meyers, Gabriella Crowley, Pat Prunty and Mike and Jane Sandsmark**

**Submitted by Sister Kay O’Neil, chair, Social Justice Team  
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