

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Governor Rick Perry  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles  
8610 Shoal Creek Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78757

Dear Governor Rick Perry and Honorable Members of Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles,

We are ninety-one faith leaders, representing the rich diversity of faith traditions observed in this great state, standing together to ask that Timothy Adams' death sentence be commuted to a sentence of life without parole in prison.

We understand that Mr. Adams is profoundly remorseful about the death of his son and that his actions on that tragic day were markedly out of character. Mr. Adams is, by all accounts, a man who has strived to live a life of faith in accordance with Jesus Christ's teachings. He is a former military man who was active in his church and bible study and who worked hard to support his family.

Mr. Adams takes full responsibility for his actions and is unwavering in his remorse. Since being incarcerated, he has had the opportunity to meaningfully reflect, which has brought him closer to God and deepened his devotion to Christ.

We firmly believe that Mr. Adams must be held accountable for his actions. We simply pray that in doing so, we ourselves do not lose sight of the humanity and compassion that Christ calls us to.

As faith leaders, we believe that our justice system should be directed toward the improvement of life, not its destruction. We advocate for a system that is rehabilitative and humane, while still taking every measure possible to support and facilitate the healing of victims.

In this case, the victim's family, who are also the family of Mr. Adams, have had their wishes ignored. Mr. Adams' mother, father, brother, sister, and son have already tragically lost a loved one. They are pleading with the State of Texas not to execute Mr. Adams and force them to endure more pain from the loss of another.

We join the victim's family in asking that you spare Mr. Adams from death. You have an extraordinary opportunity to show mercy to a family that has already suffered greatly and to uphold the sacredness of human life. We pray that you grant life to Timothy Adams.

Sincerely,

**Reverend Susan I. Abold**, Austin

**Reverend Dr. Connie S. Alexander**, Presbyterian Church of the USA, Beaumont

**Reverend Kelly Allen**, University Presbyterian Church, San Antonio

**Reverend Rick Anderson**, Minister, First United Methodist Church of Garrison, Nacogdoches

**Father Roy Babilles**, Snyder

**Father Leonardo Behampang**, Muleshoe

**Sister Leticia Benavides**, Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, San Juan

**Sister Betty Berresheim**, El Paso

**Reverend Dr. Georjean Blanton**, Minister, St. John's UMC, Austin

**Sister Nancy Boushey**, Diocese of Brownsville Director of Pro-Life Activities, Benedictine Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Rio Grande City

**Sister Colette Brehony**, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Kingsville

**Reverend Cheryl Broome**, Senior Pastor, The Rock UMC, Cedar Park

**Reverend Jacqueline Brown**, MD, American Baptist Churches USA

**Sister Maria Eleanor Caisido**, Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Houston

**Sister Olga Cardona**, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Bluntzer Ranch

**Reverend Peter Castles**, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Cedar Park

**Reverend Emily Chapman**, United Methodist Church, Houston

**Shams Cohen**, Intern Minister, First Unitarian Church, Dallas

**Sister Germaine Corbin**, San Antonio

**Sister Maureen Crosby**, Sisters of Saint Dorothy, Progreso

**Brother Richard Daly**, Brothers of Holy Cross, Austin

**Dominican Sisters of Houston**

**Reverend Dr. Becky Edminston-Lange**, Co-Minister, Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston

**Reverend Mark Edminston-Lange**, Co-Minister, Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston

**Reverend John Edwards**, Jesuit Priest, Dallas

**Russell Elleven**, Minister, Unitarian Universalist, Fort Worth

**Father Martin Elsner**, Associate Pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, San Antonio

**Reverend Paul Escamilla**, Senior Pastor, St. John's UMC, Austin

**Reverend Gabriel Ezeh**, St. Francis Xavier Parish, La Feria

**Revered Dr. Bruce Felker**, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Houston

**Sister Miriam Fidelis**

**Sister Gloria Anne Fiedler**, Congregation of Divine Providence, San Antonio

**Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza**, Catholic Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

**Sister Barbara Fry**

**Sister Imelda Gonzalez**, San Antonio

**Brother Brian C. Halderman**, University Minister for Social Justice, San Antonio

**Sister Nancy Hansen**, School Sister of St. Francis, El Paso

**Deacon Paul R. Hinojos**, Catholic Churches of South Odessa

**Reverend Matt Idom**, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Bryan

**David Jensen**, Associate Dean for Masters Programs, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

**Reverend Dr. Susanne Johnson**, Associate Professor of Christian Education, Perkins School of Theology, SMU, Dallas

**Reverend Terry Jones**, Associate Minister, Highland Park United Methodist Church, Dallas

**Reverend Bobbi Kaye Jones**, Austin District Superintendent, United Methodist Church, Austin

**Sister Rosalie Karstedt**, Leadership Ministry for Sisters of Divine Providence

**Reverend Elizabeth Kevilus**, Senior Pastor, Industry United Methodist Church, Industry

**Reverend Dr. Charles Kiker**, American Baptist Churches USA, Tulia

**Sister Mary Ann Korczynski**, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi

**Sister Juliane Kuntscher**, Secretary General, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi

**Sister Michelle Marie Kuntscher**, Superior General of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi

**Reverend Donna S. Lindley**, Agape United Methodist Church, Lubbock

**Reverend Tony Lorenzen**, Minister, Pathways Unitarian Universalist Church, Southlake

**Reverend John Manahan**, Catholic, San Antonio

**Sister Patricia Marie**, Provincial, Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, Fort Worth

**Reverend Dr. George Mason**, Senior Pastor, Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas

**Father Armand Matthew**, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Brownsville

**Reverend Donald McGowan**, New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Houston

**Sister Bonnie McHugh**, Rotan

**Sister Margaret McRedmond**, San Antonio

**Reverend Laura Merrill**, District Superintendent, McAllen District of UMC, Harlingen

**Reverend Michael Merritt**, New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Houston

**Reverend Kim Meyers**, St. Peter's United Methodist Church, Katy

**Reverend Mark Miller**, Parochial Vicar, Catholic Churches of South Odessa

**Reverend Sandra Mizirl**, Chairman of the Division of College Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Texas, College Station

**Father Bernard Nwaokeleme**, Edinburg

**Father Samuel Oracion**, Diocese of Lubbock, Painview

**Sister Madlyn Pape**, San Antonio

**Father Teresito Paqueo**, Rotan

**Reverend Raymuno J. Pena**, Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

**Reverend Lynn Phipps**, New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Houston

**Reverend Carroll L. Pickett**, Presbyterian Church of the USA, Montgomery

**Dr. Joe S. Ratliff**, Pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church, Houston

**Dr. Mike Renquist**, Lay Leader, St. John's UMC, Austin

**Reverend John Reynolds**, Minister, St. Luke United Methodist Church, Austin

**Sister Therese Ann Ridge**, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Edinburg

**Bishop Michael Rinehart**, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in American, Houston

**Reverend Lawrence L. Scott**, New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Houston

**Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word**, San Antonio

**Sister Martha Ann Snapka**, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi

**Sister Emma Marie Stillman**, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, McAllen

**Sister Patrice Sullivan**, Congregation of Divine Providence, San Antonio

**Sister Frances Solum**, Benedictine Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Rio Grande City

**Reverend Rusty Teeter**, Director, Wesley Foundation of Austin

**Father Eduardo Teo**, Tahoka

**Reverend Keith Tilley**, Minister, Bonita United Methodist Church, Nacogdoches

**Reverend John Thornburg**, Director, A Ministry of Congregational Singing, North Texas Conference of UMC, Dallas

**Sister Luella Walsh**, Benedictine Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Rio Grande City

**Reverend Aaron White**, Associate Minister, First Unitarian Church, Dallas

**Father Larry Wieseler**, Rio Grande City

**Bishop Joe Wilson**, United Methodist Church, Georgetown; Bishop to Central Texas Conference

**Reverend Jimmie Wright**, New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Houston

**Reverend James Young**, New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Houston