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Old Catholic Churches International

January 24, 2024

Feast of Saint Francis de Sales

Statement on the Planned Execution of Kenneth Smith by the State of Alabama

This week the State of Alabama will use the most cruel, inhuman way to murder someone in history to murder Kenneth Smith, Nitrogen Hypoxia.

Kay Ivey, the supposed Pro-Life Christian governor of Alabama, signed the warrant to murder Smith with this fact in mind. Our own Father Jeff Hood will be by Smith's side as the state executes him on Thursday. Fr. Hood's bishop, The Right Rev. James St George, OSFoc, will be flying down to Alabama tomorrow morning to give Fr. Hood the Rite of Anointing in case the untested and dangerous precautions set up fail and Fr. Hood and the guards located within the death chamber die from exposure to Nitrogen.

This is not the way Jesus would have us deal with these situations. Jesus was a staunch opponent of oppression and abuse by those in authority. We as Christians are called to stand against the murder of people by the state or by anyone. Given the history of this case against Smith and the fact that the judge threw out the ruling by the jury to give Smith life without parole but rather to sentence him to death is a prime example of judicial overreach and barbaric misuse of power.

By moving forward with this execution given the facts presented, Governor Ivey has forsaken her Christian heritage and has proven that she is, in fact, not pro-life. We call on all people of faith and good-will to come together and demand that this execution be stayed, and that Smith's sentence be commuted to life without parole as the jury ruled. Then and only then can Governor Ivey claim to be a Christian and pro-life.

Presiding Bishop

Rt. Rev. Gregory W. Godsey, OSFoc



118 Frances Drive - North Augusta, South Carolina 29841 - (762) 218-2485
info@myocci.org - <https://www.myocci.org>

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College of Bishops and Vicars

The Right Rev. James St. George, OSFoc
The Right Rev. David Cronan
The Right Rev. Benjamin Williams, OSFoc
The Very Rev. Kevin Kinsel, OPoc
The Very Rev. David Castro, SSI
The Very Rev. Jeffery Wolfe, OSFoc