

# FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



April 11, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor of Florida  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

***Re: Please stay the execution of Jeffrey Hutchinson and commute his sentence***

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We write to ask you to grant a stay of the execution of Jeffrey Hutchinson and to commute his sentence to a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

Mr. Hutchinson was found guilty of the heinous murders of his girlfriend, Renee Flaherty, and her three young children, Geoffrey, Amanda, and Logan. We mourn the tragic deaths of these victims and pray for the repose of their souls. We lament the pain and suffering of their family and friends, and we hope for their comfort and healing.

It is indeed a duty of the state to protect the lives and safety of its citizens and to impose appropriate punishment for crimes, and we recognize your responsibility in ensuring this duty is carried out. We nevertheless urge you to spare Mr. Hutchinson's life. This request is based on the following considerations:

- Life imprisonment without the possibility of parole is a severe punishment which also serves to protect society from further danger from Mr. Hutchinson.
- The intrinsic dignity and unalienable rights of every human being are not annihilated by even gravely evil acts. Despite his grievous crimes, Mr. Hutchinson still deserves to be treated in accordance with that dignity.
- Commuting Mr. Hutchinson's sentence enables the state of Florida to serve the requirements of justice without vengeance.
- Life imprisonment has the added value to our society of permitting the repentance and conversion on the part of the guilty.

We urge you to spare Jeffrey Hutchinson's life. We appeal to you that it is possible both to achieve the purposes of punishment and to exercise mercy. We can entrust the final judgment of every individual to God. We pray for you, too, Governor, as you consider this request.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Sheedy

cc: Jason Weida, Esq., Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the Governor  
The Catholic Bishops of Florida