

Ohioans to Stop Executions

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://otse.org/pope-francis-closes-the-door-on-the-death-penalty-in-fratelli-tutti/>

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[Hannah Kubbins](#) / October 5, 2020

Pope Francis new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, does something that some Catholics believed could not be done: It ratifies a change in church teaching. In this case, on the death penalty.

In 2018, Pope Francis ordered a [change](#) in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the official compendium of church teaching, when he termed the death penalty inadmissible. Today the pope placed the full weight of his teaching authority behind this statement: The death penalty is inadmissible, and Catholics should work for its abolition. A papal encyclical is one of the highest of all documents in terms of its authority, removing any lingering doubt about the church's belief.

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