



Apostolic Nunciature
United States of America

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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Date: ...21 SEPTEMBER 2015.....

To: ...THE HONORABLE MARY FALLIN, GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA.....

Fax: ...(405) 521-3353.....

Subject:...MR. RICHARD E. GLOSSOP.....

Sender:... THE MOST REV. CARLO MARIA VIGANÒ, APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

Comments:

The original letter, of which a facsimile is attached, is being sent by express mail service.

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3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Prot. N. 12226

19 September 2015

Dear Governor Fallin,

As the personal representative of His Holiness Pope Francis to the United States of America, I respectfully request, on his behalf, that you commute the death sentence of Mr. Richard E. Glossip.

Pope John Paul II said that capital punishment ought only to be used "in cases of absolute necessity: in other words, when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society", cases which he recognized today "are very rare, if not practically non-existent" (*The Gospel of Life*, No. 56).

Like Pope Francis and all Christians, I respect the call for justice by victims' families, and I appreciate your concern that they experience "a sense of closure and peace". But as Archbishop Paul Coakley stated:

"In turning away from the use of the death penalty, we do not withdraw any measure of our support and concern for the victims of heinous crimes, nor the families of murder victims. They deserve our support and await justice. But, taking the life of a guilty person does not restore the loss of a loved one, nor does it honor their memory. The death penalty only further erodes our respect for the sanctity of life. It coarsens our culture and diminishes our humanity" (Statement: "The death penalty is morally obsolete", April 2015).

Together with Pope Francis, I believe that a commutation of Mr. Glossip's sentence would give clearer witness to the value and dignity of every person's life, and would contribute to a society more cognizant of the mercy that God has bestowed upon us all.

Please be assured of my prayers for you as you carry out your honorable office. May God guide your prayerful consideration of this request by Pope Francis for what I believe would be an admirable and just act of clemency.

With deep respect and appreciation for your dedicated service to the people of Oklahoma, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Carlo Maria Vigano*
Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano
Apostolic Nuncio

The Office of Governor Mary Fallin
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Room 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

cc: Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board
The Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley