Pilgrimage for Life is a citizens' movement in Louisiana seeking an alternative to the death penalty. The death penalty is not a liberal or conservative issue. Because human life is the most precious thing we’ve got, the decision to take another’s life, even for the most heinous crime, is everybody’s issue.

**talk about sweat**

In Pilgrimage, we talk with our feet. And we sweat for what we believe. In the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, and Jesus, we engage in sacrificial action to awaken the conscience of our people.

We invite you to run and walk with us on the 283 miles from Monroe to New Orleans, March 24-29. Long distance runners will travel 233 miles March 24-26. Walkers will journey the last 50 miles into New Orleans March 27-29.

**talk about blood**

Often those of us who want to change death penalty are accused of being unsympathetic to murder victims' families. Nothing could be further from the truth. To show our compassion and solidarity, those of us who can will give a pint of blood for victims of crime in New Orleans, Saturday, March 29 from 2-4 p.m. We invite you to join us in this gift of life. We do not believe the execution of murderers really helps victims' families very much. We advocate diverting funds from the costly execution process (it costs about $400,000 more to execute than to imprison for life) to victims' compensation that is substantive - monetary assistance for intensive counseling, unemployment benefits, etc. Presently, Louisiana has a statute on the books for victims' compensation, but people must go through a lot of red tape to get it and it offers very little real monetary help.

**talk about fears**

We share the fears of violent crime that permeate our society today. We believe that the majority of people who support the death penalty in this state do so because they are afraid and want to deter further murders. (Virtually every study shows that executions do not affect the murder rate)

WE RECOGNIZE OUR LEGITIMATE NEED AS A SOCIETY TO INCAPACITATE MURDERERS SO THEY CAN'T KILL AGAIN.

SINCE THE LATE 70's IN LOUISIANA, DUE TO PUBLIC PRESSURE, A LIFE SENTENCE FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER REALLY HAS BECOME A LIFE SENTENCE, WITH NO LOOPS.

WE CAN BE TOUGH ON CRIME BUT HUMANE

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