

For Immediate Release:
October 30, 2006

Newman Peace and Justice Club to Hold Death Penalty Forum

Students at Newman High School who are members of the schools Peace and Justice Club are organizing around the issue of the death penalty with an emphasis on the upcoming advisory referendum. The students will be hosting a teach-in at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 1st at Newman High School. After the group educated itself on issues surrounding the death penalty such as church teaching, arbitrariness, racism, deterrence, and exonerations they worked to educate the school and community on problems surrounding the death penalty.

“Capital Punishment is not a just form of moral retribution and does not deter crime.” Said Brandon Kempf of Peace and Justice Club. The students received further encouragement when bishops of the states’ dioceses issued a letter to Catholics urging them to vote no. Capital punishment goes against Catholic social teaching and several other major religions have spoken out against it as well.” Remarked Vice President of Peace and Justice Club Bob Abell. The Bishops letter can be found on line at: <http://www.nodeathpenaltywi.org/PDF/2006LetteronDeathPenalty.pdf>

Newman Freshman Caitlyn Bastable will introduce the event and Senior Justin Malay will introduce the two speakers. The first half of the event will feature Father Dan Hackel, Associate Pastor at St Michael’s Church and Newman Catholic High School Chaplin who will be discussing Catholic social teaching and issues of morality regarding the death penalty. In the second half of the event Arthur Thexton will give a presentation on institutional problems surrounding the death penalty, such as arbitrariness, proper defense and racism. Arthur Thexton, former director of the Wisconsin Coalition Against the Death Penalty and representative of No Death Penalty Wisconsin will be explaining institutional problems with the capital punishment.

This event is open to the public and refreshments will be served. Peace and Justice club will use this event to launch a door-to-door canvassing effort urging central Wisconsin residents to vote no on November 7th.

For more information go to: **www.nodeathpenaltywi.org**

Event: Death Penalty Teach-In

Time: 7:00 PM Wednesday November 1st

Where: Newman High School, 1130 West Bridge Street in Wausau

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