

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jeff Caruso
Executive Director
Virginia Catholic Conference
(804) 225-8565
jeff@vacatholic.org

Vatican Representative, Virginia Bishops Appeal For Clemency in Vinson Case

(April 25, 2006) Earlier this month, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, sent a letter to Virginia Governor Tim Kaine on behalf of the Vatican, to request that the death sentence of Dexter Lee Vinson be commuted to life in prison without parole. Arlington Bishop Paul Loverde and Richmond Bishop Francis DiLorenzo have joined the Vatican's representative in making that request. Unless the Governor intervenes in this case, Mr. Vinson will be executed on Thursday, April 27th.

Commenting on these appeals by Church officials, Virginia Catholic Conference Director Jeff Caruso explained, "These actions are based on the firm conviction of Church leaders that executions are unjustified, and must be halted by any legitimate means available, whenever there are ways to protect society that do not require more loss of life. With the availability in Virginia of a life-without-parole sentence, executions are never needed to protect the citizens of our Commonwealth." The Virginia Catholic Conference is the public-policy agency of the bishops serving the Commonwealth's two Catholic dioceses.