

## *Prayer to Abolish the Death Penalty*

*By Sister Helen Prejean*

*God of Compassion, you let your rain fall on the just and the unjust. Expand and deepen our hearts so that we may love as you love, even those among us who have caused the greatest pain by taking life.*

*For there is in our land a great cry for vengeance as we fill up death rows and kill the killers in the name of justice, in the name of peace.*

*Jesus, our brother, you suffered execution at the hands of the state but you did not let hatred overcome you. Help us to reach out to victims of violence so that our enduring love may help them heal.*

*Holy Spirit of God, you strengthen us in the struggle for justice. Help us to work tirelessly for the abolition of state-sanctioned death and to renew our society in its very heart so that violence will be no more. Amen.*