In some ways, an approach to criminal justice that is inspired by a Catholic vision is a paradox. We cannot and will not tolerate behavior that threatens lives and violates the rights of others. We believe in responsibility, accountability, and legitimate punishment. At the same time, a Catholic approach does not give up on those who violate these laws. We believe that both victims and offenders are children of God. Despite their very different claims on society, their lives and dignity should be protected and respected. We seek justice, not vengeance. We believe punishment must have clear purposes: protecting society and rehabilitating those who violate the law... A Catholic approach leads us to encourage models of restorative justice that seek to address crime in terms of the harm done to victims and communities, not simply as a violation of law. (USCCB, November 2000)

Papers are invited that consider how Catholic Social Teaching informs the analysis and critiques of contemporary practices of solitary confinement and, conversely, how these practices develop the understanding of key CST concepts, including but not limited to, human dignity, the social nature of the person, participation, community, and solidarity.

Specific topics that might be considered include:

- the purpose of solitary confinement articulated in terms of punishment or protection;
- the place of solitary confinement in discourse on torture and human rights;
- the intersection of solitary confinement and the mental health of prisoners;
- the use of solitary confinement to manage violence and prison gangs;
- the implications and risks for juvenile populations;
- analysis of super-maximum security facilities;
- policy developments related to reduced use of solitary confinement, duration of time served in solitary, and the practice of direct release;
- social movements and activism, for example the Pelican Bay hunger strikes, and comparison with historical practices of punitive isolation.

To be considered for publication:

- Papers are solicited with a first right of refusal for publication in the Journal of Catholic Social Thought.
- Papers must be original work, not yet published, and not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- Forward one copy of the manuscript, preferably an electronic file in Microsoft Word format. Citations must be in footnote format.
- Electronic files may be forwarded by regular mail or directly as email attachments.

Papers must be submitted by January 15, 2017 to Executive Editor: barbara.wall@villanova.edu

For more information about submissions, see: http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/mission/office/publications/journal/authors.html