

**CATHY CRINO, Illinois
Sister of Stephanie Crino,
murdered in Texas in 1995**

Cathy Crino's sister Stephanie was murdered in Texas in 1995 by her boyfriend, who killed himself several days later.

Cathy has spoken about the death penalty in several Catholic parishes throughout Illinois, has written about the topic for local and national publications, and, a few years ago, joined other members of the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty in making a presentation to a visiting delegation from the Japanese Bar Association.

"I had been vocal in my opposition to the death penalty before my sister's death. On the plane to El Paso to claim her body, I remember thinking, 'This might change everything.' But when we went to my sister's apartment, seeing evidence of her killer's death splattered all over the walls didn't make us feel any better. It didn't give us that sense of 'closure' they are always promising murder victims' families. It just meant that there were two people dead instead of one. My sister was killed in Texas, the state in our nation with the most severe reputation about the death penalty. This might have been why her killer did not want to deal with the justice system and why he killed himself. But it didn't protect her. She was just as dead. Whatever her murderer thought about Texas justice, it didn't stop him from killing her in the first place. I went from a theoretical opposition to capital punishment to the sad realization that it does not do what others promise. That is what changed for me in this experience."



The Crino family: Stephanie (far left) and Cathy fourth from left