

# Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/letters/la-le-0609-wednesday-20100609,0,5671716.story?page=3>

**Letter to the Editor**  
**June 9, 2010**

## **Teenagers, prison and parole**

Re "Too young for life," Opinion, June 2

These experienced law enforcement professionals offer a thoughtful perspective on sentencing teens to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

I too must analyze this issue with a balanced approach. Catholic morality makes it clear that society has a duty to protect the innocent and punish offenders. But the church also holds that rehabilitation is a complementary goal to punishment. God expects us to be men and women of hope.

The fact that juveniles are still developing individuals means that our hope for their rehabilitation is grounded in science: Teens biologically mature, which enables them to make better choices.

Life with no possibility of parole for youth under the age of 18 is wrong. I support Senate Bill 399 because it ensures offenders will be punished while providing the possibility of parole once they have proven their rehabilitation.

**Bishop Gabino Zavala**  
**Los Angeles**

***The writer is auxiliary bishop, San Gabriel Region, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles.***

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***June 2 op-ed.***

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-krinsky-sentences-20100602,0,3911551.story>