

Omaha World-Herald

REAL. FAIR. ACCURATE.

August 1, 2018

Funding serenity, death penalty

Some ironies in life are just too big to ignore. “Rest in Peaceful Serenity” is the theme of the Cloisters on the Platte, a more than \$30 million “gift to the community,” Joe Ricketts has said. According to the Cloisters website, the Christian Retreat Center is modeled on the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius of Loyola founded the Society of Jesuits, a profoundly pro-life, anti-capital punishment religious society.

The Cloisters on the Platte opened July 23. On Aug. 14, Carey Dean Moore is scheduled to be executed. Capital punishment remains law in the state of Nebraska due to a public vote, held after a successful petition drive funded in part by the Joe Ricketts family. Capital punishment had been repealed by the Nebraska Legislature.

Within one month, the Ricketts family will be responsible for having built “a campus akin to a country club with a lake resort, though its purpose is purely spiritual,” according to Joe Ricketts, and the execution of Carey Dean Moore by helping to finance the campaign to repeal capital punishment. What would St. Ignatius of Loyola do?

Gary Olson, *Papillion*