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Spiritual Reflections from Death Row

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SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS FROM DEATH ROW

This year, *Obsculta* has the honor of presenting spiritual reflections, writing by men on death row. These pieces come from an ongoing dialogue with students from Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary. The starting point for this dialogue, at the suggestion of the prisoners themselves, was Pope Francis' exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*. Some of the candor in the writing solicits 'difficult listening,' and we alert our readers to this out of respect. Please note however that in a similar fashion, out of respect to the lives lived behind these voices, the editorial team has decided not to censure the men in any way. As David Tracy reminds us, "only by beginning to listen to those other voices may we also begin to hear the other within our own discourses and within ourselves." It is with this thought in mind that *Obsculta* encourages everyone to be open to the reality these voices herald.