

DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 21, 2012

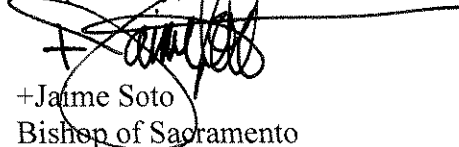
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

January 22, 2013 marks the fortieth anniversary of the lamentable 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Decision, *Roe v. Wade*. In prayerful observance of this anniversary, I designate January 22, 2013 as a Diocesan Day of Reparation:

- On Sunday, January 20, priests and deacons are asked to pray and preach for an end to abortion and a renewed promotion of the gospel of life.
- All are asked to observe Tuesday, January 22 as a day of fasting, prayer, penance, and works of charity. As a guide to those able to fast, it is recommended that they limit themselves to one full meal. Those choosing to abstain may refrain from eating either meat or anything normally consumed as part of their daily routine. Works of charity are particularly encouraged: helping at food distribution centers, visiting the sick or imprisoned, and assisting at shelters for women and families in need.
- Priests are asked to offer their January 22 Masses for an end to the scourge of abortion, using either form 30 (For the Preservation of Peace and Justice) or 48/1 (Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life).
- On January 22 all are invited to walk with me on a six-mile "Pilgrimage of Churches in Reparation for Abortion and other sins against Human Dignity". This prayerful walk will include the Sacramento Life Center and six downtown parishes. We will gather at Immaculate Conception Church at 7:30 am and arrive at the Cathedral a few hours later.
- All are invited to attend – and all priests are invited to concelebrate with me – the Cathedral Mass, 12:10 p.m., Tuesday, January 22.
- Middle and high school leaders from our Catholic schools are invited to attend a pro-life educational program at the Cathedral the morning of January 22. (Contact Diocesan School Dept. for more information, 916-733-0110)
- Catholic middle and high school youth, youth ministers and parents are invited to attend a pro-life educational program from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. at St. Anthony parish in Sacramento (Contact Diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis for more information, 916-733-0133)
- All are encouraged to participate in the January 26 Walk for Life in San Francisco. (www.walkforlifewc.com)
- In conjunction with the Year of Faith, pilgrimages are encouraged to the designated Churches in reparation for abortion and all sins committed against human dignity (http://www.scd.org/evangelization_catechesis/pdfs/Indulgences_for_Year_of_Faith.pdf).

May our prayers, acts of penance, public witness and works of charity on these days help restore a culture of life and a civilization of love to our country so marred by the Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* and bring us into fuller communion with the life-giving work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respectfully,



+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento