



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 5, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ:

January 22, 2020 marks the 47th anniversary of the lamentable 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Decision, *Roe v. Wade*. Recognizing the evil havoc of legalized abortion that still grips our nation, I designate January 22nd as a Diocesan Day of Reparation.

The Catholic Faithful and all people of good will are encouraged to observe this Day of Reparation with prayers for the legal protection of human life as well as works of mercy and penance for the violations to human dignity by the practice of abortion. I ask the clergy and laity to join me in offering a Mass of Reparation on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 12:10 pm at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento.

All priests are invited to concelebrate with me (please bring an alb and violet stole). If you are unable to attend in person, offer a Mass in communion with this intention on that day.

I ask my brother priests and deacons to pray and preach for a merciful end to abortion and a revived promotion of the Gospel of Life on the weekend of January 18-19. Encourage all parishioners to observe the January 22nd Diocesan Day of Reparation either in the local parish or at the Cathedral.

The USCCB has prepared a variety of homily notes, intercessions, and other resources to assist in observing the commemoration of *Roe v. Wade* in an appropriate manner. Please review them at: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/january-22-day-of-prayer-leader-resources.cfm>

Everyone is invited to join the Walk for Life in San Francisco, on Saturday, January 25, 2020. More information is available at: <http://www.walkforlifewc.com>

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in prayer for the respect of human life during a special novena called *9 Days for Life*. Visit www.9daysforlife.com to sign up to receive daily intentions from January 21st through the 29th.

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

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento