



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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February 27, 2009

Dear Father,

I have been informed that *40 Days for Life* has come to the Archdiocese of San Francisco. During Lent, there will be observances at locations in both San Francisco and San Mateo counties. What is *40 Days for Life* and what is its value as a Lenten observance?

40 Days for Life is a nationwide program of prayer and witness that will be uniting cities from coast to coast for a simultaneous pro-life mobilization. Faithful believers are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America. This is an ecumenical faith-based effort made up of three key elements: prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil outside a local abortion facility, and community outreach taking a positive pro-life message to our Archdiocese.

As we well know, Lent is a time of sacrifice and penance, a time of preparation and a time of purification to prepare us for the joy of Easter. It is time to give some thought to what each of us will offer or sacrifice as a Lenten observance. This particular Lenten observance is difficult, it may be inconvenient, and it most probably will be scorned by the popular culture. But it is a sacrifice I invite you to consider, spending an hour or two or more over the 40 days of Lent praying with others at a Golgotha of today, the abortion facility.

For information as to locations and other details, please contact our Office of Public Policy & Social Concerns or visit www.sflifeandjustice.org Speak for the innocent and most vulnerable in our world, those who have no voice.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend George Niederauer
Archbishop of San Francisco