

Statement by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone in Support of Annual Walk for Life West Coast

December 3, 2012

My participation in the Walk for Life West Coast dates back to 2008 when I traveled from San Diego to San Francisco to attend the 4th Annual Walk for Life. In 2008 the walkers numbered about 20,000. Last year's Walk drew over 40,000 participants. This clearly demonstrates to me that the pro-life message is not only resonating with our youth, but also filling the void that secular society creates when it excludes God, morality and sensitivity to the beauty of human life. Young people are more and more receptive to the message that abortion hurts women, men and families, and that it is inherently unfair to generations of their peers who never had the opportunity to live. This is why turnout by our students and young people is the fastest-growing demographic at the Walk.

I was delighted to attend the Walks for Life from 2008 through 2012, to walk with thousands of students carrying pro-life banners. Today, I take pleasure in being able to extend an invitation to you to join me on Saturday, January 26, 2013, in walking for life in the heart of San Francisco for the 9th straight year. The starting point is again Civic Center Plaza, under the dome of City Hall. The program begins at 12:30 PM followed at 1:30 PM by the walk down Market Street, then ending with a celebration at Justin Herman Plaza.

That morning, prior to the Walk for Life itself, I will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption at 9:30 AM to ask Our Lord's blessing on all who will participate in the walk, as well as all who will witness, and perhaps even ridicule, our peaceful and prayerful procession. I invite all Archdiocesan schools to join me, my fellow bishops from around the state, and our priests and deacons, in taking part in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in preparation for the Walk for Life.

I am grateful for your continued support of the Walk for Life West Coast, a San Francisco tradition. I pray that you will join us this year to confirm to the nation that we are a people of life!