



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6602 (415) 614-5500

October 26, 2020

Ms. Lori E. Frugoli
District Attorney
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 145
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Ms. Frugoli:

On October 12 a mob trespassed onto Mission San Rafael property prepared with chisels, rope and red spray paint to deface, degrade and topple a statue of a beloved Catholic saint, St. Junípero Serra, the first Hispanic saint in the United States and the founder of the mission churches across California.

In our view, this attack on a cherished religious symbol on our own church property is not a minor property crime, but an attack on Catholics as a people. If the perpetrators of this crime are not brought to justice, small mobs will be able to decide what religious symbols all people of faith may display on their own property to further their faith, and they will continue to inflict considerable spiritual suffering on ordinary Catholic people who would see our sacred spaces as unprotected by law.

Therefore, on behalf of the parishioners of Mission San Rafael, of the more than 80,000 Marin county Catholics, and of the entire Catholic community of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, I am asking you to press charges to the full extent of the law. In particular, I second the San Rafael Police Department's request that these six individuals be charged with both felony vandalism and vandalism in a house of worship (a hate crime), in addition to trespassing and conspiracy.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco