



December 17, 2020

Dear Faithful People of God of the Archdiocese of San Francisco,

Please join with me to pray and to do penance on January 22, the day that the U.S. bishops have designated the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.”

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373, states: *“In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.”*

The 1973 Roe v. Wade decision is a harsh marker of the ‘throwaway culture’ that Pope Francis decries. There have been more than 56 million abortions since Roe v. Wade. It is unimaginable that so many little human lives have been lost or to envision the tremendous damage inflicted upon the children’s mothers, fathers and families.

In Scripture, God calls us over and over again to pray and repeatedly reminds us that he will answer our prayers. On this day, we call on him particularly to remedy this great evil.

I will be offering the Mass at noon at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption on January 22. The Mass will also be livestreamed. Each parish is encouraged to offer a noon Mass or the regular weekday Mass for that intention, using the liturgy recommended by the U.S. bishops in designating this special day.

By offering Mass in our parishes on this day for this particular intention, we will pray together but in safer smaller and separate gatherings for the restoration of the right to life for all, from conception to natural death.

For those who are not able to attend Mass, please pray particularly for this intention in some other way. More information available at sfarch.org/legal-protection-unborn.

Thank you for your prayers as we continue together to work with God’s grace to transform our culture for life.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco