



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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November 15, 2013

Dear Father,

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 2013 it was my pleasure to lead the 9th annual *Walk* as San Francisco's new archbishop. The *Walk for Life West Coast* continues to grow and attract participants from all over the country as its reputation grows. Walkers last year numbered nearly 50,000. The growth and enthusiasm surrounding the *Walk* proves that our pro-life message continues to resonate with the culture to fill the void secular society creates when it excludes God, virtue and an understanding of the profound dignity of human life. People, especially our young people, are more and more receptive to the message that abortion hurts women, men and families. They understand that it is inherently unfair to generations of their peers who never had the opportunity to experience life. This is why turnout by our students and young people continues to rise.

Once more I take pleasure in extending an invitation to you and your parishioners to join me on Saturday, January 25, 2014, in walking for life in the heart of San Francisco for the 10th annual *Walk for Life West Coast*. Consider sponsoring a bus to the *Walk* or bringing a banner to identify your parish. The starting point is again Civic Center Plaza under the dome of the San Francisco City Hall. The program begins at 12:30 PM, followed at 1:30 PM by the walk down Market Street, and ending with a celebration on the waterfront at Justin Herman Plaza.

That morning, prior to the *Walk for Life*, 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 ridicule, our peaceful and prayerful procession. I invite all Archdiocesan and religious-order priests to join me and my brother bishops from around the state in concelebrating Mass.

Thank you 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 by our numbers that we are a people of life!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone

Archbishop of San Francisco