



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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November 19, 2010

Dear Father,

Pope Benedict XVI will begin Advent by celebrating a solemn "Vigil for a Nascent Human Life" at Saint Peter's Basilica on Saturday, November 27. In an unprecedented request, the Holy Father has asked that "all diocesan bishops, and their equivalent, of every particular church, to preside in analogous celebrations involving the faithful in their respective parishes, religious communities, associations and movements."

As the Bishop of Rome has asked me, so I ask you to participate in this worldwide celebration of prayer at your parish's Saturday evening Vigil Mass on this First Sunday of Advent. In addition to offering your Mass intention for the protection of all newly-developing human life, you may also wish to include special prayers, the rosary, Eucharistic Adoration or other special devotions after Mass. I have enclosed Supplications for the Vigil for Nascent Human Life which you may want to include in the liturgy. Additional worship aides are available on the USCCB's website at www.usccb.org/prolife/papalvigil.

At this moment in history, when societies are endorsing the killing of human beings as a perceived solution to social, economic, and environmental problems, the Holy Father is reminding us of the necessity and power of prayer to protect human life. This invitation to join with him in prayer in a worldwide Vigil is an inspiring example of the importance of uniting in faith to ask God's protection and help for every human life called in existence.

May God bless you and your parishioners, and keep you always in His loving care.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George Niederauer
Archbishop of San Francisco

Enclosure