



DIOCESE OF ORANGE

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we begin this new year, I invite the Catholic community as well as all people of good will to join together for a day of fasting, prayer and works of charity in reparation for the sinful scourge of abortion on Monday, January 22, 2007, the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*.

I ask you to promote among your parish community the observance of this day with prayer, fasting and works of charity in the manner appropriate to one's own means and ability. As a guide to those who are able to fast on that day, it is recommended they limit themselves to one full meal.

I will preside at evening prayer and Eucharistic adoration in Holy Family Cathedral on Monday, January 22, 2007, 7:00 PM. Please encourage your parishioners to attend this occasion for prayer and adoration. On this occasion we want to also remember fondly, the Reverend Monsignor John Sammon, who for many years promoted the pro-life activities in the Diocese.

As in past years, I encourage each deanery to conduct a rosary prayer vigil at local abortion centers or agencies offering referrals for abortions. These prayer vigils are quiet, non-violent and prayerful means of bringing a Christian witness to those locations where innocent lives are lost and many women's lives are scarred. The vigils customarily begin with morning Mass prior to going out to the site for prayer. This year, the vigils are scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2007.

I am pleased to announce that the various life centers in the Diocese of Orange are offering a open house at their sites on the same Saturday. This will be an occasion for Catholics to find out the many earnest and heroic efforts that are being made to accompany women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy. The work of these centers provides a vital gesture of solidarity that does give life and hope to many women and children in our community.

Through our acts of penance, prayer and works of charity on these designated days we will express our desire to restore a culture of life and a civilization of love to this country so marred by the court decision of *Roe v. Wade* as well as other acts of violence against the innocent.

May these practices of prayer, penance and charity also bring us into fuller communion with the life-giving work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respectfully,

Most Reverend Tod D. Brown
Bishop of Orange