



December 4, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent years we have been blessed in the Diocese of Madison with a renewed growth and commitment by many to proclaim, witness to, and strive to restore recognition for the inherent dignity of the human person—from conception to natural death. As I have said so many times before, it is the work of the laity, and not the bishops or priests, to transform our culture and the laws which govern our land, and many have taken up their responsibility with renewed vigor. Insofar as we strive to protect the preborn child and all of the vulnerable, “the least among us,” so too we serve Jesus Christ who specifically bestowed even his own identity upon such as these (Mt 25:40).

So many of you continue to do a great deal, and for that I am so very grateful. Whether your efforts include peacefully praying outside abortion facilities, teaching chastity to the young, offering assistance to mothers in crisis situations, or respectfully petitioning our legislators, your efforts do much to actualize Vatican II’s specific call to the laity to build and restore a just society.

The very heart of efforts such as these, however, should always be prayer and the deepening intimacy each of us shares with Jesus Christ - in and through His Church. Therefore, when approached and petitioned by a group of active pro-life individuals to call for and encourage three days of prayer and fasting in preparation for the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I embraced this sentiment with joyful and hopeful enthusiasm that we may most effectively serve and support this most critical cause of our time.

With these thoughts in mind, I am inviting, encouraging and requesting the faithful of the Diocese of Madison, and any other interested party, to intensified prayer and fasting from December 9th through the 11th, asking our Lord for a restored respect and protection of the vulnerable among us, particularly, but not limited to, each and every preborn child. Fasting from TV or the internet, for example, is appropriate, as is fasting from food or drink.

In obedience to the teaching of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Mk 9:29), the Church has witnessed within her history how through prayer and fasting the Father has bestowed generous victories to rectify and dissolve what had seemed to be insurmountable and oppressive dangers to the vulnerable. I recall primarily the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1989.

Please join me in these three days of prayer and fasting, with supplication particularly to the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, in anticipation of her feast day on December 12th. May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Rosary, intercede for us in our critical needs of this time, as we strive to build a Culture of Life.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison