



DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

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March 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Recent efforts to revitalize The Gabriel Project have borne much fruit. Most notably, a conference held at St. Mary's Cathedral in the Archdiocese of San Francisco in September 2009 attracted many parish representatives from throughout northern California, including several from our diocese.

I wish to convey to you my enthusiastic support of this parish-based ministry, which enables volunteers to be "Angels" to our sisters facing difficult pregnancies. Knowing that others care can make the difference in a woman's decision to choose life for her baby. We must help women to know that they do have a choice.

Perhaps the ministry is best described by the words on the Gabriel sign, the "Sign of Hope" which most parishes display facing the street: "The members of this Church Community see in the birth of each baby, a fresh expression of God's unfailing love. We offer immediate and practical help to any woman faced with a crisis pregnancy." The 800 number on the sign connects a woman to a caring volunteer.

I give my blessing to this ministry and to all those involved, and heartily encourage your participation and support. If you would like further information, please contact the Department for Evangelization and Catechesis at 510-267-8379.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Salvatore J. Cordileone". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a small cross symbol.

The Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone
Bishop of Oakland