



**DIOCESE OF
SAN JOSE**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Novena to Defeat Senate Bill 24

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to bring to your attention a novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe in which dioceses across our California will begin praying on August 3rd. In a special way, this novena will commend all young college-age women and unborn children to the protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the unborn. Praying this novena will serve as an opportunity to join the struggle of women who feel the pressure to abort their children, and witness to the love and support these women and children have in the Church. May all women and unborn children find safety, support, and welcome in the Church.

The novena will also serve to raise particular awareness against SB 24. This state senate bill seeks to mandate all California state university health clinics to dispense abortion-inducing medications. As my brother bishop, Jaime Soto of Sacramento, has said, “The womb should not become a tomb for any child anywhere in our state. Women and children deserve better.” Universities should especially be safe harbors for young women and their unborn children.

I urge all the faithful to commend our young women and unborn children to the loving care of Our Lady of Guadalupe, especially during this novena beginning August 3rd. As we joined in defense of the Seal of Confession against SB 360, may we unite with the assistance of the Blessed Mother in the defense of the most vulnerable in society against SB 24.

Be assured that I will be united to you in prayer, especially during this special novena.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Oscar Cantú