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PRESS RELEASE

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Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity Day Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe, NM

Friday, January 22, 2010

9:00-11:30 am Pro-Life Education Conference Cathedral School Auditorium

12:00 Noon Mass

Procession Led by the State's Three Bishops to State Capitol Immediately After Mass

2:00 PM Pro Life Rally at State Capitol

All are welcome!

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Tuesday, January 19, 2010—IMMEDIATE RELEASE The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Diocese of Gallup, and Diocese of Las Cruces will prayerfully mark the 37th Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade legalizing abortion with the **Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity Day on Friday, January 22, 2009.**

The day will begin with a pro-life educational conference at Cathedral School auditorium located east of the parking lot behind the Cathedral Basilica. Several speakers will address Catholic Social Teaching, local issues facing our state and current legislative advocacy efforts.

Immediately following the noon Mass at the Cathedral Basilica, New Mexico's three bishops: Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe; Most Rev. Ricardo Ramirez, CSB, Bishop of the Diocese of Las Cruces; and Most Rev. James S. Wall, Bishop of the Diocese of Gallup will lead a procession from the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi to the State Capitol culminating in a rally at 2:00 p.m. and visits with State legislators.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Pro-Life Secretariat, there are currently about 1.37 million abortions per year in the United States. To support the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, participants are encouraged to bring items such as diapers, blankets, bottles as well as toiletries to be collected at the Mass and distributed to expectant mothers in need and local nursing homes.

The New Mexico Bishops have worked diligently in the past to advance pro-life legislation, including repealing the death penalty in New Mexico and replacing it with life in prison without parole and preventing legislation that would permit embryonic stem cell research.

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