

MICHAEL C. BARBER, S.J.  
BISHOP OF OAKLAND



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March 5, 2025  
Ash Wednesday

To: All Priests, Deacons, Seminarians, and people of good will of the Diocese of Oakland

***“Find the courage to proclaim Christ,... and the unchanging truths  
which have their foundation in Him. These are the truths that set us free!  
They are the truths which alone can guarantee respect for the inalienable dignity and rights of each  
man, woman and child in our world - including the most defenseless of all human beings,  
the unborn child in the mother's womb”. Pope Benedict XVI New York, April 20, 2008***

I write once again to invite you to join our 40 Days for Life Vigils. We are called to continue advocating for the life and dignity of the unborn, especially with so many lives at stake. Recently, a pregnant mother in our Diocese decided to give birth to her triplets after speaking with someone praying outside an abortion facility and receiving referrals to services. Through our active Diocesan initiatives, not only are we interceding to save lives with our prayers, we are also connecting pregnant mothers with basic social services. We are truly helping to make a difference!

I ask you to engage your communities in this 40-day campaign to provide prayer and supportive action to create a culture of life.

Please help us spread the word and encourage those in your parish communities to join.

**Peaceful, Prayerful 40 Days for Life Vigil from  
March 5 – April 13, 2025 in these locations around the Diocese:**

**Concord Planned Parenthood**  
2185 Pacheco Street, Concord  
7am-7pm Daily, except Sunday  
[Friendsforlifeconcord@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsforlifeconcord@gmail.com)  
[www.40daysforlife.com/ConcordCA](http://www.40daysforlife.com/ConcordCA)

**El Cerrito Planned Parenthood**  
8000 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito  
7am-7pm Daily  
[lovebabies21670@gmail.com](mailto:lovebabies21670@gmail.com)  
[www.40daysforlife.com/ElCerrito](http://www.40daysforlife.com/ElCerrito)

**Walnut Creek Planned Parenthood**  
1357 Oakland Blvd, Walnut Creek  
7am-7pm Daily, except Sunday  
[friendsforlifetrivalley@gmail.com](mailto:friendsforlifetrivalley@gmail.com)  
[www.40daysforlife.com/WalnutCreek](http://www.40daysforlife.com/WalnutCreek)

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. With the assurance of my prayers and blessing, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

*+Michael Barber S.J.*

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ  
Bishop of Oakland

**FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD**