



**THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO**  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Our Lady of Guadalupe pilgrimage will draw 20,000 faithful Dec. 10**

(December 5, 2011) SAN FRANCISCO –Men and women of all ages with children at their sides and in strollers will make the 18<sup>th</sup> annual “Guadalupana Pilgrimage” Dec. 10.

The 12-mile prayer walk, expecting to draw more than 20,000 faithful, begins forming at 4 a.m. at All Souls Church in South San Francisco and includes stops at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma; Holy Angels Church in Colma; and St. John the Evangelist Church in San Francisco, with its final stop at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption at Gough Street and Geary Boulevard for a closing Mass at 2 p.m. with retired San Francisco Archbishop John R. Quinn presiding. Archbishop Quinn presided at the first pilgrimage Mass in 1994.

Father John Balleza, spiritual director for the march and pastor of St. Raphael Parish in San Rafael, said, “Everyone is welcome to walk as much of the pilgrimage as they can.” The rosary and other prayers as well as music sung on the way will be in Spanish and English, Father Balleza said. Rest stops will offer access to rest rooms, water and, often, food.

“The priests, people, merchants and officials of the towns we walk through are most generous and interested in the welfare of the people making the pilgrimage,” Father Balleza said. Opportunities for prayer, confession, and counseling are available during the walk.

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is Dec. 12. Visit [www.cruzadaguadalupana.org](http://www.cruzadaguadalupana.org) or call (415) 333-4868.

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