



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6602 · (415) 614-5630 · FAX (415) 614-5633

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: George Wesolek (415) 606-7112

**STATEMENT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO
REGARDING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH**

(July 13, 2011) SAN FRANCISCO - The mission of the Archdiocese of San Francisco is to serve the Catholic and a wider community based on our faith in Jesus Christ. This mission moves us to proclaim the Good News; to serve those in need; and to promote justice, life and peace in the community.

Over the years that mission changes primarily through the movement of peoples; changing neighborhoods and new challenges.

The parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe in San Francisco was closed twenty years ago in 1991, because there were very few parishioners supporting the parish or attending mass there. The population of the neighborhood in which it was built is now overwhelmingly Chinese. In 1991, the crown of Our Lady of Guadalupe was transferred in solemn procession to the altar of the Virgin at St. Mary's Cathedral. Since then mass in Spanish has been said at the Cathedral every Sunday at 1:00 pm in her honor. The Mass now has over 800 participants. On the Saturday closest to December 12th of each year a pilgrimage and mass takes place in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe, and it is attended by over 15,000 people.

For over 15 years, the building that was the former site of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church has been the home of St. Mary's Chinese school. The school has now moved to its new site where once the International Hotel was once situated.

Because of these changing demographics in that neighborhood and the Archdiocesan commitment to the Chinese community, it is now the intent of the Archdiocese of San Francisco to sell the property. The proceeds have been dedicated to St. Mary's Chinese School.

The Latino community has been and remains a vibrant and important part of the Archdiocese.

- more-

--The Archdiocese of San Francisco consists of ninety parishes in three counties. At least fifty-five Masses are celebrated in Spanish each week, in at least thirty-four parishes.

--Over 3700 Hispanic students are enrolled in seventy-four Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. Many of these students and families receive financial aid from either the Archdiocese or their parishes.

--There are numerous Spanish-speaking youth and young adult groups in the parishes of the Archdiocese.

--Archdiocesan programs are in place to alleviate poverty, provide alternatives to gang membership and advocate for affordable housing in Latino communities throughout the parishes.

--Thousands of Hispanics are served in more than thirty Charismatic prayer groups throughout the Archdiocese.

--The Archdiocese has a Vicar for Hispanic Ministry, Father Moises Agudo, Pastor of St. Charles Parish in San Francisco, is undertaking ministry to this vital community assisted by his committee. Together they have developed the **Pastoral Hispana** for the Archdiocese which will implement ministries for youth, communications, vocations, social justice and family life.

More than 450,000 Catholics live in the Archdiocese of San Francisco that includes San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties.

###