



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6602 • (415) 614-5632 • FAX (415) 614-5633

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: George Wesolek (415) 606-7112

PILGRIMS OF TRUTH, PILGRIMS OF PEACE

(October 26, 2011) SAN FRANCISCO - On October 27, 2011, The Archdiocese of San Francisco along with the National Shrine of St. Francis will commemorate the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's 1986 meeting in Assisi, Italy with religious leaders from around the world during the UN International Year of Peace. The gathering is titled **Pilgrims of Truth, Pilgrims of Peace**. The event will be held at the same time as Benedict XVI and representatives of the world's major religions will gather in Assisi, Italy.

"We are replicating this event in San Francisco with local interfaith leaders," affirmed George Wesolek, director of the Department of Communications and Public Policy for the archdiocese and a principal coordinator of the morning of prayer and exhortation. Speakers at the event will include: His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, The Most Reverend William Justice, Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco, Fr. Gregory Coiro, O.F.M. Cap., Rector of the National Shrine, Reverend James DeLange, of St. Francis Lutheran Church, The Right Reverend Marc Andrus, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of California, the Reverend Heng Sure, Director of Berkeley Buddhist Monastery, Rabbi Stephen Pearce, Senior Rabbi of Temple Emmanu - El, and Ameena Jandali, from the Muslim Community.

In a letter dated Aug. 3, to members of the interfaith and ecumenical community, Archbishop George Niederauer said he hoped to "parallel the events in Assisi, Italy," with the prayer event at the shrine and Porziuncola Nuova. "The Holy Father intends to hold a day of reflection, dialogue and prayer for peace and justice in the world," Archbishop Niederauer said in his letter.

The religious leaders will sign a commitment to peace which condemns terrorism and violence and calls for dialogue and understanding. The religious leaders will also "*commit ourselves to forgiving one another for past and present errors and prejudices, and to supporting one another in a common effort both to overcome selfishness and arrogance, hatred and violence, and to learn from the past that peace without justice is no true peace.*"

The event is Thursday, October 27, 2011 at the Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi, Vallejo at Columbus, from 10AM to noon.

###