

MEDIA ADVISORY
10th ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2014
12:30 A.M.
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
SAN FRANCISCO
walkforlifewc.com

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On Saturday, January 25, the Walk for Life West Coast will celebrate its 10th Anniversary!

San Francisco, January 24, 2014 – Starting in 2005, with 7,500 participants the Walk has grown in both attendance and diversity each year, until it is now the second largest pro-life event in the United States. Last year’s attendance was estimated at more than 50,000 people. On January 25 tens of thousands of people from colleges, high schools and church congregations and from as far away as Washington and Wyoming will rally at 12:30 p.m. and walk down San Francisco’s main artery, Market Street, ending at Justin Herman Plaza. Seventeen Catholic bishops, led by San Francisco’s Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, and two Anglican bishops will be in attendance.

The Walk has grown despite ongoing opposition from San Francisco’s city government. That opposition began with the first Walk in 2005 and continues to this day. On January 18, 2014, Supervisor David Campos, joined by six of his colleagues, introduced a resolution opposing the banners inviting San Franciscan’s to the Walk. The banners proclaimed the Walk’s message: “Abortion *Hurts Women*.” Several of this year’s speakers, and the Walk’s accompanying *Silent No More* rally will testify to the truth of that statement.

Speakers include: Shari Rigby, actress whose film and TV credits include: *October Baby*, *The Bold and the Beautiful*, & *The Young and the Restless*, and who has had an abortion; Grace Dulaney, founder of Agnes Dei Foundation/Lamb of God Ranch, home for women who are choosing to place their unborn children with adoptive parents; Monica Snyder, spokeswoman for Secular Pro-Life, a group founded in 2009 which seeks to unite all pro-lifers regardless of religious beliefs or lack thereof; and the Rev. Clenard Childress Jr., the founder of Life Education And Resource Network (LEARN), who spoke at the first Walk for Life West Coast and a number of subsequent Walks. Anglican Bishop Eric Menees of the diocese of San Joaquin, California, will give the invocation and Georgette Forney, co-founder of the *Silent No More Awareness Campaign* for women who have had abortions will receive the Walk’s St. Gianna Molla Award.

The Walk for Life West Coast was started by a group of San Franciscans in 2005 to affirm the right to life from conception to natural death and particularly to change hearts hurt by the violence of abortion. While most of the organizers and a large proportion of the participants are people of faith, the Walk is a non-sectarian and non-denominational event that openly expresses belief in God but welcomes all who share a respect for life. It is held on the Saturday closest to the January 22nd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade ruling.