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## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 2015

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### Pastor's Column

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#### **Bishop McElroy and the Diocese of San Diego in Solidarity with Pope Francis in His Visit to the United States— The Church of the Border**

Pope Francis is coming! He begins his visit to the United States on Tuesday, September 22, in Washington D.C. He will visit Washington D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia before leaving for the Vatican on Sunday, September 27.

Pope Francis will bring the Gospel Message of inclusion, inviting all people to “come, see, and taste the Goodness of the Lord.” He constantly invites everyone into a relationship with “Abba, Father, Daddy” in and through Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis is strongly centered on making sure that the eyes of the Church are focused especially on the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, the weak, the vulnerable, and that we who are more “in the center of things” must reach out to them, help to address their needs, and bring them in closer union to us.

I am sure that this is the message we will hear over and over again in his Masses, in his presentations, and especially in his address to the Joint Session of Congress, the first time in history that a Pope will do so!

In coordination with the San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP) (of which St. Thomas More is a member and Sr. Maureen Brown is our Parish SDOP Liaison), Bishop McElroy is hosting an event, “The Church of the Border.”

This event will be held in our Diocese to mark the Pope’s visit, and to show our solidarity with Pope Francis in his outreach to the marginalized.

On Sunday, September 20, at 3:00pm, Bishop McElroy is inviting the Diocese to join him for this event at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in San Ysidro.

The purpose of this gathering is to reflect upon the Pope’s call for an inclusive Church that reaches out to the edges of society.

For us in the Diocese of San Diego, a Border City, the very clear challenge is the issue of immigration and the need for immigration reform.

There is a flyer in today’s Bulletin that has all the details. For further information contact Sister Maureen.

This event will demonstrate our Church’s desire to be faithful to the call of Pope Francis and Bishop McElroy:

“We are called to be builders of bridges by bringing into the very heart of the Church and society those so often condemned to live or die on the periphery—the poor and the homeless of our nation and our world, the unborn, victims of sexual trafficking and abuse, especially clergy sexual abuse; the aged and disabled, those who are incarcerated.

We are called to build bridges which span the partisan divides that now frequently separate these issues of human dignity into warring camps, and to foster an ecclesial culture which sees with the clarity of Mother Teresa and Dorothy Day that all forms of marginalization which deny the dignity of the human person are antithetical to the Gospel and repugnant to God.”

—Bishop Robert W. McElroy, Installation Mass as Bishop of San Diego, 04/15/15

Hope to see you there!

*Fr. Mike*

You are invited to an interfaith prayer service:

# Church of the Border

With Bishop Robert McElroy



- Interpreting Pope Francis' message in San Diego
- Consecrating a Memorial Site dedicated to the 2 million+ immigrant families torn apart by deportations
- Multi-faith leaders unite to put faith into action in the name of the excluded population

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20th, 2015**

**3:00pm to 4:00pm**

(Registration at 2:00pm)

**OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

(in the south parking lot)

2020 Alaquinas Drive San Ysidro, CA 92173

**\*\*\*PARKING SPACE IS LIMITED.** Please consider taking  
Trolley and getting off at Beyer Blvd. Station  
1/2 mile (5 minute) walking distance from the church