



**ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of ORANGE**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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September 4, 2019

Because we share Jesus's passion, let us protect all human life.

During this season of ordinary time we are reminded in the readings of our common commitments as Catholics, to give the higher position to others, specifically the poor and vulnerable, to welcome others as we would be welcomed, to count the cost and take up our cross with Christ.

Such commitments remind us that our life with Christ is not simply a pious exercise or any sort of 'opiate of the masses' but in fact it is the kind of human solidarity that can put us at odds with the powers of this world and its political passions.

It's no secret that we are seeing record polarization in our culture right now and even within the Church at times it seems that these political arguments are pulling us apart (God forbid!).

The answer is not to distance ourselves from human suffering or solidarity but to stand in those gaps as Catholics committed as we are to prayer and to action.

Too often our prayers and action are driven by our politics rather than the other way around.

Perhaps that is one explanation for why so many Catholics appear calloused to the suffering of migrants or the unborn or those struggling with homelessness. Sometimes our political commitments blind us to the human need right in our midst.

Our political leaders frequently exploit this human suffering in ways to stir these political passions to their own benefit.

As Catholics we are called, instead, to be missionary disciples. That is, we are called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and to follow him and imitate him and *his* Passion. We are called to be passionate about what Jesus is passionate about: people – and the salvation of the world!

Because we share Jesus's passion for the life and dignity of every person we defend the dignity of migrants regardless of their status. That is why I have written about our migration crisis and invite you to join in prayer and action for migrant sisters and brothers.

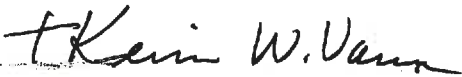
Because we share Jesus's passion for the life and dignity of every person we defend the dignity of unborn children and call for protections and support for pregnant and parenting students. That is why I have written of the promotion of abortion as an unacceptable solution to human problems and in favor of providing life-affirming alternatives.

Thank you to all who joined in our statewide Novena to Stop the Expansion of Abortion in California. I ask that you continue to pray and to visit the California Catholic Conference website [[tinyurl.com/StopSB24](http://tinyurl.com/StopSB24) ] to tell your state legislators to oppose SB 24 which would require all state colleges and universities to offer students free access to the “abortion pill.”

We must not let our political affiliations and partisan passions dictate our work in the world as a Church. Please join me in prayer and witness for a culture that reflects Jesus’s passion for people and for the salvation of the world.

And let us continue to ask the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe to stop the expansion of abortion, for the protection of all human life, and to draw us close to the Passion of her Son, Jesus the Lord.

Together in Christ,



Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, J.C.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Orange

