

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ORANGE CELEBRATES ALL SOULS DAY IN HONOR OF THE DEPARTED

Colorful Banners, Flowing Flowers and Skeleton Effigies are displayed at Cemetery

ORANGE, Calif., (October 24, 2006) – Rev. Rudy Preciado, pastor of St. Anthony Claret will celebrate All Souls Day at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Orange, honoring deceased community members, Saturday October 28, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. All Souls Day, sometimes called the “Day of the Dead” is a Roman Catholic holy day when one prays for the souls of the faithful departed, still suffering in purgatory. The Church gives the name Purgatory to the final process of purification of the elect, who are, those who have died in the state of friendship with God but who are not fully purified and perfected. Community members will gather at the cemetery adorned with colorful banners, flowers and effigies for the annual outdoor mass.

“This sacred tradition reminds us of our commitment to live holy lives and that there is purification of souls destined for Heaven. Our annual celebration of All Souls Day highlights the rich culture and history of our Diocese,” said the Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange.

All Souls Day is a tradition in Mexico, where it is known as El Dia de los Muertos, or “the Day of the Dead.” It is marked by festivities, including spectacular parades of skeletons and ghouls. Many families visit the graveyards of their loved ones and celebrate throughout the day with a picnic as they remember the deceased.

“The Day of the Dead is passionately observed by the Hispanic community in our diocese. It is an occasion for families to come together in prayer to celebrate a ritual that has profound cultural importance,” said Fr. Preciado.

There are many customs and traditions that occur during All Souls Day depending on the culture. An altar is often prepared at the home offering food for deceased family members in the belief that the dead participate in the meal in spirit. The offerings are arranged with flowers that serve as a living memory of deceased loved ones. Candles, incense, mementos, photos, and other remembrances are used in the preparation of the altar.

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