

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



MEDIA CONTACT
RYAN LILYENGREN
714-282-3075
RYANL@RCBO.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ORANGE HONORS THE VIRTUE OF HOSPITALITY IN TRADITIONAL *POSADAS* CELEBRATION

*Annual Procession calls on Legislators to Enact Comprehensive &
Humane Immigration Reform*

SANTA ANA, Calif., (Dec. 19, 2006) - The Most Rev. Jaime Soto, Auxiliary Bishop of Orange, will lead a “posada” procession calling for renewed respect for immigrants and the poor Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The procession will begin at Ford Park, located at 300 N. Richman Ave., Fullerton and proceed to Villa del Sol where the group will sing versus from the *Posadas* and pray for compassionate and humane immigration reform. The procession will end at St. Mary’s Church with a traditional prayer service honoring the journey of the holy family.

“We join together on this holy *Posadas* to pray for the plight of immigrants living within our community. Parishioners from throughout the Diocese will join me in praying for God’s wisdom and grace upon our elected officials and all of American Society so that we can have a comprehensive immigration reform this coming year,” said Bishop Soto.

The most colorful Christmas tradition in Mexico is the *Posadas* party, celebrated every evening from December 16 - 24. These celebrations commemorate Mary and Joseph’s difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of shelter. “Posada” in Spanish, means lodging or shelter. The posada has evolved into a religious and social festivity celebrating the journey. This ancient Christmas tradition reminds us of the virtue of hospitality. Today in United States many families continue to live in fear as undocumented immigrants. The desperate search of the holy family for accommodation is painfully lived out daily by many poor and immigrant families.

About the *Posadas* Celebration:

Every night prior to Christmas a party is held in celebration of the holy family’s journey to the birth place of Jesus. At dusk, parishioners gather outside the church - a small child dressed as an angel leads a procession followed by other children dressed in silver and gold robes carrying figures of Mary and Joseph. Everyone sings as they walk carrying lit candles. The posada ends with a celebration and piñata after the mass. The piñata is

traditionally made in the shape of a star, to recall the star that guided the Three Kings to the newborn Jesus.

###

THE MARYWOOD CENTER
2811 E. VILLA REAL DRIVE
P. O. BOX 14195
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92863-1595
PHONE: (714) 282-3000
FAX: (714) 282-3029