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CNS documentary service

Requiem Mass for the Unborn

Archbishop Gomez

“Every time a child dies in the womb, something of our humanity dies as well,” Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles said in a homily during the Requiem Mass for the Unborn celebrated Jan. 18 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. The liturgy, a 25-year-old tradition for Los Angeles Catholics, was held in memory of all who died from abortion in the past year. Some 175 candles were lit during the Mass and placed in the window of the cathedral colonnade to remain on display. Abortion has no place in a civilized society, Archbishop Gomez said. “We need to admit, all of us, that we have not done enough to build the just society, the beloved community, where abortion would never be thought

“We need to make reverence for life the foundation of a great movement for human rights and human dignity in our society.”

of,” he added. Earlier in the day, the archdiocese held its sixth annual OneLife LA Walk for Life in downtown Los Angeles, timed to coincide with the anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. The walk ended in a rally at Los Angeles State Historic Park, where Archbishop Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, spoke in Spanish and English about human dignity and our “purpose in this world ... to love and to give life to others.” Later at the Requiem Mass, Archbishop Gomez called upon worshippers to “change this culture” and “to continue working to protect the unborn life, and to do more to support and strengthen the family.” His homily follows.

my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Once again this year we gather to remember and to mourn the lives that have been lost. We offer this Eucharist tonight for all these tiny souls who were killed before they could be born.

We pray tonight for their mothers and fathers, for all those who know the pain of abortion and are caught up in this tragedy.

Every time a child dies in the womb, something of our humanity dies as well. And over these long decades of legalized abortion, we all know we have fallen short of what is expected of us.

Abortion is certainly an atrocity and it should be abolished, it has no place in a

continued on page 558

2249A



contents

- 557 Requiem Mass for the Unborn
by Archbishop José H. Gomez
- 559 USCCB and Florida Bishops Friend-of-the-Court Brief for Florida Death Penalty Case Before Supreme Court
by Owen Pell, Virginia Romano and Tai H. Park
- 567 ‘Barbaric Resurgence’ of Anti-Semitism Condemned
by Pope Francis
- 567 Message to Davos World Economic Forum
by Pope Francis
- 568 Australia Fires: Catholic Church Implements National Response
by Archbishop Mark Coleridge
- 569 Australia Fires: Ecological Conversion Needed
by Bishop Vincent Long
- 570 Vespers Service in Thanksgiving for 2019
by Pope Francis
- 572 Datebook
- 572 On File

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