Diocese of Orange Celebrates All Souls Day in Honor of the Departed

Description

Garden Grove, Calif., (October 27, 2016) – The Most Rev. Kevin Vann, Bishop of Orange will hold an outdoor mass celebrating All Souls Day, the ancient feast day honoring the dead at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery (7845 E Santiago Canyon Rd, Orange), November 2, 2016 10:00 a.m. All Souls Day is a Roman Catholic holy day when one prays for the souls of the faithful departed, still undergoing "purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter heaven," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains "purgatory." This feast is an important tradition in Mexico and other parts of Latin America where it is known as *El Día de los Muertos*, or "the Day of the Dead." In honor of this Latin American tradition, the Diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministries will hold its annual *El Día de los Muertos* observance in Spanish, October 29th from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Plaza at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, with a special mass being held at 2:30 p.m. in the Arboretum. Hispanic Catholics from several parishes in the Diocese of Orange will gather for the annual Mass and to celebrate the life of their loved ones who have departed. "This sacred tradition reminds us of our commitment to live holy lives and that our prayers can help in the purification of souls destined for Heaven. Our annual celebration of All Souls Day highlights the rich culture and devotion of the people of our Diocese," said the Most Rev. Kevin Vann, Bishop of Orange. There are many customs and traditions that occur during All Souls Day depending on the culture. An altar is often intricately built at the cemetery offering food for deceased family members in the belief that the dead participate in the meal in spirit. The offerings are arranged with colorful banners and flowers, which serve as a living memory of deceased loved ones. Candles, incense, mementos, photos, and other remembrances are used in the preparation of the altar honoring the faithful departed. *El Día de los Muertos* is a tradition in Mexico and in other Latin-American Countries. This observance dates back many hundreds of years and is closely associated with All Souls Day. 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 spiritual and cultural importance," said Bishop Vann. **All Souls Day Masses:** Wednesday, November 2nd at 10:00 a.m.: Holy Sepulcher Cemetery 7845 E Santiago Canyon Rd Orange, CA 92869 Celebrant: Bishop Kevin Vann Ascension Cemetery 24754 Trabuco Rd El Toro, CA 92630 Celebrant: Reverend George Blais Good Shepherd Cemetery 8301 Talbert Ave Huntington Beach, CA 92646 Celebrant: Reverend Sergio Ramos Pastoral Center: Communications Department 13280 Chapman Avenue Garden Grove, CA 92840 **office:** 714-282-3075 **fax:** 714-282-302

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