

Holy Father,

*Please Provide Us With a Leader True
to Our Values and Your Namesake.*

Please Replace Archbishop Cordileone.

We are committed Catholics inspired by Vatican II. We believe in the traditions of conscience, respect and inclusion upon which our Catholic faith was founded. From Archbishops Alemany, Hanna, Mitty and McGucken, to Quinn, Levada and Niederauer, our Archdiocese has been “an immigrant Church” built on a rich tradition of diversity. The Archdiocese has created a remarkable system of churches, schools, hospitals, homes for the elderly and support services for those in need.

That is why we now respectfully ask you to replace Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone.

Archbishop Cordileone has fostered an atmosphere of division and intolerance.

Upon threat of losing their jobs, he coerces educators and staff in our Catholic high schools to accept a morality code which violates individual consciences as well as California labor laws. Teachers, students and parents are overwhelmingly opposed to his divisive proposal. The absolute mean-spiritedness of his required language for the Archdiocesan high school faculty handbook sets a pastoral tone that is closer to persecution than evangelization. Students, families and teachers have been deeply wounded by this language, yet the Archbishop refuses to withdraw his demands.

Instead of your famous words “Who Am I to Judge,” Archbishop Cordileone repeatedly labels the behavior of our fellow brothers and sisters (and their children) as “gravely evil.” He has selected and installed a pastor for Star of the Sea parish who marginalizes women’s participation in the church by banning girls from altar service and who has inexplicably distributed to elementary school children an age-inappropriate and potentially abusive, sexually-oriented pamphlet. This priest was recruited by Archbishop Cordileone in spite of a troubled history of questionable judgement as a pastor outside our diocese.

The Archbishop has isolated himself from our community. He disregards advice from his priests and has brushed aside the deep reservations expressed by our Retired Priests regarding his actions. He relies instead on a tiny group of advisors recruited from outside of our diocese and estranged from their own religious orders.

The Archdiocese of San Francisco is threatened by Archbishop Cordileone’s single-issue agenda and cannot survive, let alone thrive and grow under his supervision. The City of Saint Francis deserves an Archbishop true to our values and to your teachings.

Signed,

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