

October 10, 2009

Dear Father,

November is *International Restorative Justice Month*, and the week beginning Sunday, November 15th, is *Restorative Justice Week*. The Catholic Bishops in this country are committed to the cause of Restorative Justice because we are a Church that proclaims a Gospel of conversion, forgiveness, reconciliation and renewal. Those are the very goals that the cause of Restorative Justice embraces. Accordingly, I am asking you to include this subject in your preaching sometime next month and to make appropriate use of the following materials: brief vignettes suitable for weekly bulletins; homily notes; possible petitions for General Intercessions; and a *Restorative Justice Prayer* based on the Prayer of Saint Francis. These materials are freely available for your use on the website: <http://www.restorejustice.com> which was established by the California Catholic Conference.

San Quentin, the largest prison in the California system, is located in our Archdiocese of San Francisco, and many other detention facilities are here as well. Jesus Christ was a condemned prisoner himself, and he has urged us to show compassion toward those in prison. We are challenged to embrace the cause of restorative justice which reaches out to victims and perpetrators alike.

Thank you for all that you do in priestly ministry, and for your attention to this matter as well. May God bless you and keep you always in His loving care.

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Niederauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend George Niederauer
Archbishop of San Francisco