



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6602 (415) 614-5500

February 25, 2010

Dear Mr. McQuaid,

I would like to extend an invitation to you and members of the St. Thomas More Society to attend the annual *Chrism Mass*, which I will celebrate at St. Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 5:30 PM.

This is an important and beautiful liturgy in the life of our Archdiocese, celebrated each year on Tuesday of Holy Week. During this Mass the Holy Oils which will be used in sacramental celebrations throughout the coming year will be blessed: the Oil of the Sick, used in the Sacrament of the Anointing the Sick; the Oil of Catechumens, used in celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism; the Sacred Chrism, used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.

Because the Chrism Mass is linked liturgically to the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, which commemorates the institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood, the priests of the Archdiocese will renew the promises they made at the time of their priestly Ordination during this Mass.

I would be most grateful if you would encourage participation in this beautiful celebration, which displays so effectively the unity of our local Church as clergy and lay faithful gather at one altar with their Bishop.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George Niederauer
Archbishop of San Francisco