



## Anti-Gay Bigot Headlines Obama Inauguration

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It has been announced that Rick Warren, the conservative evangelical pastor of the Saddleback Church, who is both anti-choice and anti-gay - he endorsed Prop 8 in California - will give an invocation at the inauguration of Barack Obama on January 20, setting off a firestorm of controversy.

In a letter to Obama, Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign called the invitation to Warren "a genuine blow to LGBT Americans." He wrote that "we feel a deep level of disrespect when one of the architects and promoters of an anti-gay agenda is given the prominence and the pulpit of your historic nomination."

**Rea Carey of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said in a statement, "We urge President-elect Obama to withdraw his invitation to Rick Warren and instead select a faith leader who embraces fairness, equality, and the ideals the president-elect himself has called the nation to uphold."**

The benediction will be delivered by civil rights leader Reverend Joseph Lowery.

Joe Biden will take the oath as vice president from Justice John Paul Stevens, the longest serving member of the Supreme Court and, though an appointee of Republican Gerald Ford, one of the most liberal. Obama's oath will be administered by Chief Justice John Roberts, a conservative appointee of George W. Bush.

Not much of gay interest in the program, though Itzhak Perlman, who did an ad against Prop 8 on behalf of his lesbian daughter and her wife, will play the violin. As reported last week in Gay City News, the Lesbian and Gay Band Association has a contingent in the Inaugural Parade, the first time a gay group has been invited to participate.