

The Catholic Church of the  
**Immaculate Conception**

2540 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110 619 295-4141 FAX 619 295-4142  
e-mail: [parish@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:parish@ic-sandiego.org) Website: [www.ic-sandiego.org](http://www.ic-sandiego.org)

**September 14, 2014**

**Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor**  
[pastor@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:pastor@ic-sandiego.org)

**Rev. Msgr. Robert Ecker, Weekend Associate**

**Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris**  
[rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org](mailto:rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org); 858 490-8332

**Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts**  
[fielder@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:fielder@ic-sandiego.org)

**Connie Rodriguez, Parish Secretary**  
[parish@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:parish@ic-sandiego.org)

**Parish Office Hours**

Monday: Noon to 4:00 pm  
Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Mass Schedule

**Daily Mass:** Monday - Saturday at 8:00 am  
**First Friday Mass & Devotion:** 8:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 P.M.  
Sunday Morning: 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 A.M.  
Sunday Evening: 5:15 P.M.

**Holy Day Masses:** 8 A.M., 5:30 P.M.

**Penance:** For daily Mass goes 7:30 AM, For Parish on Saturday: 4:30 to 5:00 P.M., and by appointment

**Baptisms & RCIA:** *By appointment only.* Please email Deacon Fitzmorris at [rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org](mailto:rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org).

**Weddings:** By appointment only. Arrangements must be made at least **one year** in advance. Please contact the office

**Funerals:** *For arrangements, please call the parish office.*



**History of Immaculate Conception Parish**

It was here in Old Town that Father Junipero Serra celebrated his First Holy Mass in California on July 2, 1769, near the site of the present Immaculate Conception Church, and it was on the hill overlooking Old Town that he planted the cross which marked the site of the Mission and the Presidio.

In 1849, the first parish church was established in Old Town with the name of Immaculate Conception and was dedicated in 1858. It still stands and is known as the Old Adobe Chapel on Conde Street. The cornerstone to the present Immaculate Conception Church was laid in 1868 under the direction of Father Antonio Ubach. With the population swing toward the south, it was not until July 6, 1919, that the church was dedicated by Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles.

## WE PRAY

### MASS INTENTIONS

15	8 AM	<b>Our Lady of Sorrows</b> †Mary Neyshba	RP
16	8 AM	<b>Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian</b> Shirley Pearson, SI	RE
17	8 AM	<b>St. Robert Bellarmine</b> Georgiana Ottenheimer, SI	RP
18	8 AM	<b>Weekday</b> †Geri South	RP
19	8 AM	<b>St. Januarius</b> Sylvia Kelly, SI	RP
20	8 AM	<b>St. Stephen of Hungary, BVM</b> †Bishop Cirilo Flores	RP RP
21	5:15 PM	†Ted and Carmen Silva	
	8:30 AM	†Bishop Cirilo Flores	RP
	10:00 AM	Class of 1974, Academy of Our Lady of Guam	RE
	11:30 AM	†Michael Klentschy	RE
	5:15 PM	People of Immaculate Conception	RP

### APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

**September** Intentions of the Holy Father  
**Universal:** That the mentally disabled may receive the love and help they need for a dignified life.  
**Evangelization:** That Christians, inspired by the Word of God, may serve the poor and suffering.

### PRAY: SEMINARIANS IN THEOLOGY

3rd	David Exner North American College Rome,
3rd	Brian Frice Mt. Angel Seminary OR
4th	Bernardo Lara Mt. Angel Seminary, OR
1st	Oscar Lopez, Mt. Angel Seminary OR
2nd	Nathan McWeeny Mt. Angel Seminary OR
1st	Eric Tamayo North American College Rome
3rd	Corey Tufford North American College Rome,
3rd	Derek Twilliger Mt. Angel Seminary OR
3rd	Billy Zondler, Mt. Angel Seminary, OR

### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

15	Rev. Raymond Elam, OSA
16	Rev. Msgr. William Elliott
17	Rev. Rean Enriquez
18	Rev. Peter Escalante
19	Rev. Armando Escurel
20	Rev. Silverio Espenilla
21	Rev. Reynald Evangelista

### PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-33; Ps 40:7-17; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35  
 Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-131; Ps 10:1-5; Lk 7:11-17  
 Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Ps 33:2-22; L 7:31-35  
 Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1-28; Lk 7:36-50  
 Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1-15; Lk 8:1-3  
 Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-49; Ps 5:10-14; Lk 8:4-15

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

*Jesus, we ask you to bring your peace and healing touch to those who are ill, afraid or worried. Amen*

Lisa Becerra, Ann Bethel, Ann Marie Bielicki, Ismael Casanova, Bob Curry Joanne Daleo, Albina Farrie, Julie Fish Esther Fitch Margaret Kelly, Patricia Kennedy, Dorothy Kleint, Deena Marchiano,		Dena Mendoza, Jean Miller, Patricia O'Grady, Ellen Quigley, Lupe Riccio, Michelle Sullivan Mary Jane Tiernan, Marguerite Vorst, Floyd Watson, Marie Whitman Martha Zamudio, Carlos Amaya Fred Levine
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### PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY

*Jesus, protect all who serve our country.*

Sgt. Ahmed John Alexander, Natalie Augustine, Major Jerry Bloomquist, Col. Mike Bodkin, Danny Carpenter, USMC, LTJG Joseph Colangelo, USN; Cpl. Samuel James Comer, Daniel Dinglebeck, USN, PFC David Eley, USMC, Micah Emery, Sgt. Christopher Escalona, Capt. Pedro Esquivel, 1Lt. Cortez Fabia, Juan Carlos Galazza; SSGT. Vincent Charles Lucario;	Robert Clinton Long, MC2; Sgt. Adriana Matizel; Wendell Miculob, LTJG Joe F. Moralez, USN; LCPL Matthew A. Pena; Sgt. Richard Pierce; Sgt. William Paul Powers and Cinco, CPL Wilson Santiago; Alfred Tello; Ricky Thibeault; Tony Tulloss; PFC Travis Vliet; & 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.
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### MARRIAGE BANNS

October 4-Alex Blundell & Lilli Lovberg  
 October 11-Joe Jordan & Megan Dyer  
 October 18-John Gonzalez & Roselinda Serratos

### †PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED †

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace Amen.*

Brandon Blaine Bielicki, Georgene Bielicki, Elizabeth Cantoni, Salvador Carrillo, David Diaz Stephen Falley, Norm Henkels, Helen Kennedy, William Kennedy Jirair Khalatian, Mary Lynch, Bette June Marciel,	Robert McMahan, Kianna Meade, Julia M. Ocampos Ernie Proo, Joan Schmitten, Karina Sosa, Clyde Southern, Jr., Mariana S. Tadena Margie Gautier Patrick Piggot Rodney Serrano
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### THE CROSS IS CHRIST'S GLORY AND TRIUMPH

FROM THE PASTOR

—*St. Andrew of Crete*

We are celebrating the feast of the cross which drove away darkness and brought in the light. As we keep this feast, we are lifted up with the crucified Christ, leaving behind us earth and sin so that we may gain the things above. So great and outstanding a possession is the cross that he who wins it has won a treasure. Rightly could I call this treasure the fairest of all fair things and the costliest, in fact as well as in name, for on it and through it and for its sake the riches of salvation that had been lost were restored to us.

Had there been no cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if life had not been nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality pouring from Christ's side, blood and water for the world's cleansing. The legal bond of our sin would not be cancelled, we should not have attained our freedom, we should not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree of life and the gates of paradise would not stand open. Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, nor hell despoiled. Therefore, the cross is something wonderfully great and honorable. It is great because through the cross the many noble acts of Christ found their consummation – very many indeed, for both his miracles and his sufferings were fully rewarded with victory. The cross is honorable because it is both the sign of God's suffering and the trophy of his victory. It stands for his suffering because on it he freely suffered unto death. But it is also his trophy because it was the means by which the devil was wounded and death conquered; the barred gates of hell were smashed, and the cross became the one common salvation of the whole world.

The cross is called Christ's glory; it is saluted as his triumph. We recognize it as the cup he longed to drink and the climax of the sufferings he endured for our sake. As to the cross being Christ's glory, listen to his words: Now is the Son of Man glorified, and in him God is glorified, and God will glorify him at once. And again: Father, glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world came to be. And once more: "Father, glorify your name". Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it and will glorify it again". Here he speaks of the glory that would accrue to him through the cross. And if you would understand that the cross is Christ's triumph, hear what he himself also said: When I am lifted up, then I will draw all men to myself. Now you can see that the cross is Christ's glory and triumph.

### HIS MOTHER STOOD BY THE CROSS

—*St. Bernard of Clairvaux*


The martyrdom of the Virgin is set forth both in the prophecy of Simeon and in the actual story of our Lord's passion. The holy old man said of the infant Jesus: He has been established as a sign which will be contradicted. He went on to say to Mary: And your own heart will be pierced by a sword.

Truly, O blessed Mother, a sword has pierced your heart. For only by passing through your heart could the sword enter the flesh of your Son. Indeed, after your Jesus – who belongs to everyone, but is especially yours – gave up his life, the cruel spear, which was not withheld from his lifeless body, tore open his side. Clearly it did not touch his soul and could not harm him, but it did pierce your heart. For surely his soul was no longer there, but yours could not be torn away. Thus the violence of sorrow has cut through your heart, and we rightly call you more than martyr, since the effect of compassion in you has gone beyond the endurance of physical suffering.

Or were those words, Woman, behold your Son, not more than a word to you, truly piercing your heart, cutting through to the division between soul and spirit? What an exchange! John is given to you in place of Jesus, the servant in place of the Lord, the disciple in place of the master; the son of Zebedee replaces the Son of God, a mere man replaces God himself. How could these words not pierce your most loving heart, when the mere remembrance of them breaks ours, hearts of iron and stone though they are! Do not be surprised, brothers, that Mary is said to be a martyr in spirit. Let him be surprised who does not remember the words of Paul, that one of the greatest crimes of the Gentiles was that they were without love. That was far from the heart of Mary; let it be far from her servants.

Perhaps someone will say: "Had she not known before that he would not die?" Undoubtedly. "Did she not expect him to rise again at once?" Surely. "And still she grieved over her crucified Son?" Intensely. Who are you and what is the source of your wisdom that you are more surprised at the compassion of Mary than at the passion of Mary's Son? For if he could die in body, could she not die with him in spirit? He died in body through a love greater than anyone had known. She died in spirit through a love unlike any other since his.

## AROUND THE PARISH



### Gifts of Treasure

September 7, 2014

With gratitude for the gifts we have received, parishioners and visitors made a joyful return to the Lord.

**Total Collection...\$5,781.56**

Envelope: .....\$4,464.00  
 Plate: .....\$1,317.56

Total contributing households: 99  
 Total registered households: 446

5:15 Sat	\$ 801.00
8:30 Sun	\$1859.61
10:00 Sun	\$1943.05
11:30 Sun	\$ 419.90
5:15 Sun	\$ 398.00
Mailed in	\$ 360.00

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**EXPENSES** (week of September 1-5)

Landscaping	\$ 720.00
Music Ministry	\$1,203.00
Office Supplies	\$ 26.00
Payroll (incl. tax)	\$5,358.00
Waste Disposal	\$ 350.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 7,657.00</b>

**Restricted Funds:**

Courtyard Project: \$1,000 retainer fee paid

### FAMILY CATECHESIS

September 21 from 9:45 - 10:45 Immaculate Conception will offer Family Catechesis in the brides' room of the hall to prepare children and parents in the faith. Classes will meet every two weeks.

### Parish Pancake Breakfast


Join us in the parish hall for a delicious pancake breakfast. Served after the 8:30 and 10:00 Masses this Sunday.

### FILIPINO DINNER

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th**

**Menu:** Chicken Adobo, pancit (noodles), loompya (egg rolls), steamed rice. One free drink included in ticket price.

\$10 per person  
 Tickets available September 21 in parish hall.



### 2014 Baptism Schedule

**Class: September 15**  
**Baptism: September 21**

The Baptism preparation classes are held in Serra Hall on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm.

The Baptisms take place in the church on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm.

Please contact Deacon Bob Fitzmorris at  
[rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org](mailto:rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org)

### Serra Gifts . . .



**Street Level of Fr. Serra Hall**  
**619-297-3426**

Open 7 days a week  
 Monday - Friday 9:00 -4:00  
 Saturday 10:00 to 4:00  
 Sunday 9:30 to 3:00

Serra Gifts offers a beautiful assortment of religious items for your home, and for your family and friends

Gifts for special occasions

New items arrive weekly

Remember, your purchases help to support our parish

**THANK YOU**

### Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer.

The Immaculate Conception Centering Prayer Group welcomes newcomers to attend and learn the method of Christian contemplative prayer.

Thursday Evening-September 25  
 Immaculate Conception—Serra Hall  
 7:00-8:30 pm

### YOGA

Free gentle stretch class:  
 Tuesdays at 5 pm in Serra Hall  
 Begins on Sept. 16th.  
 Bring padding to provide comfort on floor.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

from the Office of Young Adult Ministry

### Diocesan Young Adult Retreat Sept 19-21 at Whispering Winds

Join Young Adults (18-39 years) from the around the diocese. Retreat begins Friday, 6:30pm and ends Sunday at noon. Cost is \$138. For details go to [www.yamsd.org](http://www.yamsd.org) or call 858-490-8260.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church is inviting you to join us and be a Catholic presence at the 5k Walk to End Alzheimers, October 18th at Balboa Park. Go to [www.act.alz.org](http://www.act.alz.org) to register as a member of Team "Holy Spirit." We will meet for fellowship and prayer before the walk begins. . Questions: Debbie Schnitzius 619-772-1679.

### Parish Calendar

#### September 16-30

16	YOGA class	5:00 p.m.
17	Choir Practice R.C.I.A.	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
20	Spanish Evangelical Readers	6:30 p.m.
21	Parish Pancake Breakfast	9:30 /11a.m.
23	YOGA class	5:00 p.m.
24	Choir Practice R.C.I.A.	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
25	Centering Prayer	7:00 p.m.
28	Quarters & Cans Sunday	
30	YOGA class	5:00 p.m.

#### October 1-12

1	Choir Practice RCIA	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
6	I.C. Seniors Luncheon	11:00 a.m.
7	YOGA class	5:00 p.m.
8	Choir Practice RCIA	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
12	Know Your Parish Sunday Parish Pancake Breakfast	

### THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

**1380** It is highly fitting that Christ should have wanted to remain present to his Church in this unique way. Since Christ was about to take his departure from his own in his visible form, he wanted to give us his sacramental presence; since he was about to offer himself on the cross to save us, he wanted us to have the memorial of the love with which he loved us "to the end," even to the giving of his life. In his Eucharistic presence he remains mysteriously in our midst as the one who loved us and gave himself up for us,<sup>210</sup> and he remains under signs that express and communicate this love:

The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease.

**1381** "That in this sacrament are the true Body of Christ and his true Blood is something that 'cannot be apprehended by the senses,' says St. Thomas, 'but *only by faith*, which relies on divine authority.' For this reason, in a commentary on *Luke 22:19* ('This is my body which is given for you.'), St. Cyril says: 'Do not doubt whether this is true, but rather receive the words of the Savior in faith, for since he is the truth, he cannot lie.'"

**1382** The Mass is at the same time, and inseparably, the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated and the sacred banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood. But the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice is wholly directed toward the intimate union of the faithful with Christ through communion. To receive communion is to receive Christ himself who has offered himself for us.



The Franciscan Vision Series are lectures offered on September 18th, October 16th and November 20th from 7-8 p.m. It is a rare opportunity for interested individuals to learn about the mission of the Franciscan

The school has offered these free lectures throughout the years, and we are excited to present them for the first time at our new campus in Mission San Luis Rey.

Please contact Donna Foley, Director of Spiritual Formation and Students Services, for more information at [dfoley@fst.edu](mailto:dfoley@fst.edu) or 760-547-1800 ext. 224.

**AROUND THE COMMUNITY**

...from Joy Davis, Program Coordinator  
**Catholic Charities**

On behalf of the Catholic Charities Downtown Food Resource Center, thank you for your generous food donation.

In August, we served almost 2,100 people in need. In observing our vision, your donations afford us the opportunity to assist as many families and individuals as possible.

**DO YOU KNOW...**

Perfume and cologne can affect persons with allergies, but most deodorants do not. Please consider these sensitivities when you prepare to come to Mass. Thank you.

***EVANGELII GAUDIUM- Pope Francis***

12. Though it is true that this mission demands great generosity on our part, it would be wrong to see it as a heroic individual undertaking, for it is first and foremost the Lord's work, surpassing anything which we can see and understand. Jesus is "the first and greatest evangelizer". In every activity of evangelization, the primacy always belongs to God, who has called us to cooperate with him and who leads us on by the power of his Spirit. The real newness is the newness which God himself mysteriously brings about and inspires, provokes, guides and accompanies in a thousand ways. The life of the Church should always reveal clearly that God takes the initiative, that "he has loved us first" (1 Jn 4:19) and that he alone "gives the growth" (1 Cor 3:7). This conviction enables us to maintain a spirit of joy in the midst of a task so demanding and challenging that it engages our entire life. God asks everything of us, yet at the same time he offers everything to us.

**WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION!**

To register at the parish, please fill out the form below, and drop it in the basket or call the office at 295-4141.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

†**BISHOP CIRILO FLORES**



Ordained: June 8, 1991  
Appointed Auxiliary Bishop Orange, CA: January 5, 2009  
Consecrated and installed: March 19, 2009  
Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of San Diego: January 4, 2012  
Succeeded as Fifth Bishop of San Diego: September 18th, 2013  
Died: September 6, 2014

Bishop Cirilo Flores was born in Corona, California, on June 20, 1948, the third child of Cirilo and Armida Flores (deceased). He has three brothers and two sisters, all residents of California. He attended local schools, graduating from St. Edward Parish School, Corona, and Notre Dame High School, Riverside.

He received a Bachelor's degree from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles and the Juris Doctor law degree from Stanford University School of Law. He practiced law in Riverside and Los Angeles counties for ten years before he entered St. John's Seminary in Camarillo in 1986.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Orange on June 8, 1991 by Bishop Norman McFarland. He served as parochial vicar at St. Barbara Parish (Santa Ana), St. Joachim (Costa Mesa), Our Lady of Mount Carmel, (Newport Beach, administrator), and Our Lady of Guadalupe (La Habra). In 2000 he was appointed pastor of St. Anne Parish in Santa Ana. In September of 2008 he was appointed Pastor of St. Norbert Parish, Orange.

Bishop Flores was appointed Titular Bishop of Quiza and Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Orange by Pope Benedict XVI on January 5, 2009. He was ordained to the episcopacy on March 19, 2009. Bishop Tod Brown appointed him to serve as Vicar for Charities for the Diocese.

On January 4, 2012 it was announced that Pope Benedict had appointed Bishop Flores to serve as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego, to succeed Bishop Robert Brom upon his retirement. On September 18, 2013, Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Bishop Brom as the Bishop of San Diego. At the same time Bishop Flores became the fifth Bishop of San Diego and pastoral governance of the diocese was transferred to him.

Bishop Flores served on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Subcommittee on Latin America and on the USCCB Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs.

For the California Conference of Catholic Bishops he was the Chairman of the Committee on Religious Liberty and was the Episcopal liaison for RECOPS, the Region Eleven Council of Priest Senates.

## THE SPREADING SCOURGE OF ANTI-CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

—Dr. Ben Carson

Intolerance that fosters pogroms abroad is taking root in U.S. communities. Sobering and unforgettable images are projected across our television and computer screens. They should elicit the most basic instincts of both fear and compassion.

I'm referring to images of showing the persecution of hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions, of our fellow brothers and sisters by incomprehensible religious zealots. Their intolerance of Christianity is beyond horrible. People are beheaded for their faith. Women and young girls are sexually violated, and whole families are wantonly slaughtered in cold blood. Perhaps just as abhorrent is the profound silence of the current administration.

Even though President Obama has declared that we are not a Judeo-Christian nation, we are still compassionate people who should not ignore humanitarian atrocities, much less ones where the victims are only guilty of maintaining a belief in the principles espoused by Jesus Christ.

We have an obligation as Americans to denounce these acts of persecution. Even those who do not worship a higher deity should be concerned. For when we stand up to such intolerance, we are defending the root of freedom. We are defending choice -- the ability to worship and call on the name of a heavenly being without fear of torture and abandonment.

The president, who very early in his tenure won the Nobel Peace Prize, now has an opportunity to truly be the broker of peace in a very troubled part of the world. He can be a champion of freedom of religion, a founding principle of our nation. As long as religious practices do not infringe upon the rights of others, he can make it clear that it is wrong to interfere with those practices.

In our own country, we must become more reasonable in disputes about religious symbols. For instance, if a Christmas tree or manger scene has been a long-standing community tradition, and a few offended people come along and claim that it must be removed, should those few individuals have

the power to interfere with the seasonal joy of thousands who rejoice in the viewing of those symbols? If someone is offended by a menorah in a Jewish community, would it not make more sense to give them sensitivity training rather than disturb the entire community by removing the symbol? I could go on, but I think the point is clear. When we reward unwarranted hypersensitivity surrounding religious ceremonies or beliefs, we add fuel to the hatred and intolerance that subsequently produces religious persecution.

Some will say religious persecution in other parts of the world does not concern us and we cannot be the police for the planet. Certainly, there is some validity to the latter part of that statement, but if we continue to ignore or tolerate religious persecution elsewhere, it is just a matter of time before we will experience it here at home.

As far as the Middle East is concerned, we are not helpless and can dispatch the State Department to do all it can to help. Some conservatives and cynics might argue that such a move requires government dollars. Who's to say? We don't fully comprehend how besieged these people are, much less know what it would take to grant them relief.

Governments need to decry such persecution, and root it out wherever and whenever they can. The United States should lead in that effort -- just as it has with combating sex trafficking and other problems the world has decried in the past. It is hard to find an issue that demands a sharper clarion call for leadership now.

*In San Diego where we live not only with followers of Islam, but with our Catholic and Orthodox brethren in the Chaldean and Assyrian communities from the Middle East, we need to denounce this oppression, to pray constantly, but to take action calling on our political leaders to take measures to ensure the life and liberty of Christians in their own lands, and to urge Islamists themselves to denounce these attacks on the Christians in Muslim majority countries. The same freedom of religion that Islam enjoys here must be afforded to Christians in the rest of the world.*

*Let us bear the cross with our fellow Christians in their oppression.*