

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 Website: www.ic-sandiego.org

December 14, 2014

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor
pastor@ic-sandiego.org

Rev. Msgr. Robert Ecker, Weekend Associate

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris
rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org; 858 490-8332

Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts
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Connie Rodriguez, Parish Secretary
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., 7:00 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.

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	8AM	Advent Weekday †Anthony Cmarada	RP
16	8AM	Advent Weekday †Angie Olivarez	RP RE
17	8AM	Late Advent Weekday †Joseph & Angela Wira	RP
18	8AM	Late Advent Weekday Macina Family, SI	RP
19	8AM	Late Advent Weekday Rodriquez Family	RP
20	8AM	Late Advent Weekday Robert Bernard Ibarra, SI.	RP
21	5:15PM	Derek Correia, SI	
	8:30 AM	Correia Family, SI	RP
	10:00 AM	People of Immaculate Conception	RP
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 PM	Preciado-Arana Family, SI	RE RP

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

December: Intentions of the Holy Father
Universal: That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.
Evangelization: That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

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 McWeeney 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. Arturo Lopez, OFM
16	Rev. Msgr. Edward Lyng
17	Rev. Dionisio Macalintal
18	Rev. Emilio Magaña
19	Rev. Reynaldo Manahan
20	Rev. Eduardo Giovann Manalac
21	Rev. Elmer Mandac

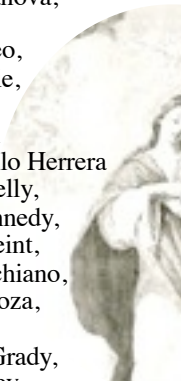
PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Nm 24:2-17; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-13; Ps 34:2-23; Mt 2:28-32
 Wednesday: Gn 49:2-10; Ps 72:3-17; Mt 1:1-17
 Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-19; Mt 1:18-25
 Friday: Jgs 13:2-21; Ps 71:3-17; Lk 1:5-25
 Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

Ismael Casanova,	Lupe Riccio,
Bob Curry	Mary Jane Tiernan,
Joanne Daleo,	Marguerite Vorst,
Albina Farrie,	Floyd Watson,
Julie Fish	Marie Whitman,
Esther Fitch	Martha Zamudio,
Lydia Castillo Herrera	Carlos Amaya,
Margaret Kelly,	Fred Levine,
Patricia Kennedy,	Ed Oleata,
Dorothy Kleint,	Mike Rodriguez,
Deena Marchiano,	Lisa Becerra,
Dena Mendoza,	Maguire Fitzpatrick
Jean Miller,	Tony Jenkins
Patricia O'Grady,	Peter Nalwalker
Ellen Quigley,	Bob Witt



PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY

Jesus, protect all who serve our country.

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

†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,	Mariana S. Tadena
Georgene Bielicki,	William Kennedy
Elizabeth Cantoni,	Robert McMahon,
Salvador Carrillo,	David Diaz
Stephen Falley,	Margie Gautier
Norm Henkels,	Patrick Piggot
Helen Kennedy,	Rodney Serrano
Jirair Khalatian,	Concepción Garza
Mary Lynch,	Richard Solís Moreno
Bette June Marciel,	Laura Marks
Kianna Meade,	Alvin Weaver
Julia M. Ocampos	William Bethel
Ernie Proo,	Lillian Sinclair
Joan Schmittin,	Olga Hritz
Karina Sosa,	Imelda Hoeckelmann
Clyde Southern, Jr.,	Angelina Olivarez

BE JOYFUL: CHRIST IS KING!

[CHRIST THE KING] invites us to fix our gaze on Christ, the King of the Universe. The beautiful prayer of the Preface reminds us that

FROM THE PASTOR

his kingdom is “a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace”. The readings we have listened to show us how Jesus established his kingdom; how he brings it about in history; and what he now asks of us.

First, how Jesus brought about his kingdom: he did so through his closeness and tenderness towards us. He is the Shepherd, of whom the Prophet Ezekiel spoke in the First Reading (cf. 34:11-12, 15-17). These verses are interwoven with verbs which show the care and love that the Shepherd has for his flock: to search, to look over, to gather the dispersed, to lead into pasture, to bring to rest, to seek the lost sheep, to lead back the confused, to bandage the wounded, to heal the sick, to take care of, to pasture. All of these are fulfilled in Jesus Christ: he is truly the “great Shepherd of the sheep and the protector of our souls” (cf. Heb 13:20; 1 Pt 2:25).

Those of us who are called to be pastors in the Church cannot stray from this example, if we do not want to become hirelings. In this regard the People of God have an unerring sense for recognizing good shepherds and in distinguishing them from hirelings.

After his victory, that is after his Resurrection, how has Jesus advanced his kingdom? The Apostle Paul, in the First Letter to the Corinthians, says: “for he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet” (15:25). The Father, little by little, subjects all to the Son and, at the same time, the Son subjects all to the Father, including even himself in the end. Jesus is not a King according to earthly ways: for him, to reign is not to command, but to obey the Father, to give himself over to the Father, so that his plan of love and salvation may be brought to fulfillment. In this way there is full reciprocity between the Father and the Son. The period of Christ’s reign is the long period of subjecting everything to the Son and consigning everything to the Father. “The last enemy to be destroyed is death” (1 Cor 15:26). And in the end, when all things will be under the sovereignty of Jesus, and everything, including Jesus himself, will be subjected to the Father, God will be all in all (cf. 1 Cor 15:28).

The Gospel teaches what Jesus’ kingdom requires of us: it reminds us that closeness and tenderness are the rule of life for us also, and that on this basis we will be judged. This is how we will be judged. This is the great parable of the final judgement in Matthew 25. The King says: “Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed

me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me” (25:34-36). The righteous will ask him: when did we do all this? And he will answer them: “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (Mt 25:40).

The starting point of salvation is not the confession of the sovereignty of Christ, but rather the imitation of Jesus’ works of mercy through which he brought about his kingdom. The one who accomplishes these works shows that he has welcomed Christ’s sovereignty, because he has opened his heart to God’s charity. In the twilight of life we will be judged on our love for, closeness to and tenderness towards our brothers and sisters. Upon this will depend our entry into, or exclusion from, the kingdom of God: our belonging to the one side or the other. Through his victory, Jesus has opened to us his kingdom. But it is for us to enter into it, beginning with our life now – his kingdom begins now – by being close in concrete ways to our brothers and sisters who ask for bread, clothing, acceptance, solidarity, catechesis. If we truly love them, we will be willing to share with them what is most precious to us, Jesus himself and his Gospel.

Today the Church places before us the example of these new saints. Each in his or her own way served the kingdom of God, of which they became heirs, precisely through works of generous devotion to God and their brothers and sisters. They responded with extraordinary creativity to the commandment of love of God and neighbor. They dedicated themselves, without holding back, to serving the least and assisting the destitute, sick, elderly and pilgrims. Their preference for the smallest and poorest was the reflection and measure of their unconditional love of God. In fact, they sought and discovered love in a strong and personal relationship with God, from whence springs forth true love for one’s neighbor. In the hour of judgement, therefore, they heard that tender invitation: “Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Mt 25:34).

Through the rite of canonization, we have confessed once again the mystery of God’s kingdom and we have honored Christ the King, the Shepherd full of love for his sheep. May our new saints, through their witness and intercession, increase within us the joy of walking in the way of the Gospel and our resolve to embrace the Gospel as the compass of our lives. Let us follow in their footsteps, imitating their faith and love, so that our hope too may be clothed in immortality. May we not allow ourselves to be distracted by other earthly and fleeting interests. And may Mary, our Mother and Queen of all Saints, guide us on the way to the kingdom of heaven.

AROUND THE PARISH

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

December 7, 2014
Total Collection: \$6,546.50
Parishioners: \$5,087.00 Visitors: \$1,459.50
Total contributing households: 116

5:15 Sat	\$1,749.05
8:30 Sun	\$1,842.60
10:00 Sun	\$1,150.52
11:30 Sun	\$ 779.00
5:15 Sun	\$ 534.33
Mailed	\$ 491.00

EXPENSES (week of December 1-5)

Music Ministry	\$ 1,642.50
Gas & Electric	\$ 861.99
Grocery & Household	\$ 452.39
Priest Supply	\$1,100.00
Supplies Ministry	\$ 55.00
Supplies Office	\$236.96
TOTAL:	\$4,348.84

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the Immaculate Conception Choir for a beautiful Christmas concert. Special thanks to the volunteers who gave of their time and talent to make the reception and dinner a memorable event:

Joan Braunstein	Penny Sampo
Bill & Betty Dennis	Sue Sullivan
Pat Haase	Marie Wagner
Carole Pietras	Ben & Mary Beth Zanin
Marilyn Rasmussen	

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 _____

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 16
Advent Confession 900 a.m.
Penance Service 7:00 pm.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24
5:15 Mass
12 Midnight Mass

Thursday, December 25
8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.

There will be no 5:15 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

FAMILY CATECHESIS

Continues on December 14 from 9:45 - 10:45. Immaculate Conception offers Family Catechesis in the brides' room of the hall to prepare children and parents the faith. Classes meet every two weeks



2014 Baptism Schedule

No baptisms are scheduled for the remainder of 2014.

2015 schedule on the website under Sacraments

A MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN, FRANCE & PORTUGAL:

You are invited to join us on a once-in-a-lifetime 'Pilgrimage to Spain, France & Portugal,' 14-days, September 28 to October 11, 2015. Includes visits to Barcelona, Zaragoza, Lourdes, Santiago, Porto, Fatima, Lisbon & more! Only \$3,599 from San Diego (SAN), plus \$680 in airport taxes and \$165 in tips. Under the Spiritual Direction of Fr. Richard Perozich. To download the free color brochure and registration form, visit www.GoCatholicTravel.com/Perozich, or for more information, please contact Fr. Richard Perozich at (619) 295-4141 x11 or send an email to pastor@ic-sandiego.org. Space is limited. Register today. Info at parish office or on main page of IC's website: <http://www.ic-sandiego.org>.

AROUND THE PARISH

Parish Calendar

December

- 14 Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious
Parish Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
Family Catechesis 9:45 a.m.
- 16 Confession - Advent 9:00 a.m.
Advent Penance Service 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
RCIA 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Centering Prayer 7:00 p.m.
- 24 No choir practice
- 25 Parish Office and Serra Gifts closed
- 26 Parish Office closed; Serra Gifts open
- 28 Quarters and Cans Sunday
Family Catechesis 9:45 a.m.
- 31 No choir practice

January

- 1 Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God
(Holy Day, Obligation Dispensed)
Parish Office and Serra Gifts closed
- 5 I.C. Seniors Luncheon 11:00 a.m.
- 6 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 7 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
RCIA 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Parish Breakfast9:30 a.m.
- 13 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
Pastoral Council (closed session) 6:00 p.m.
- 14 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
RCIA 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Parish Office closed- Serra Gifts open
- 20 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
RCIA 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 28 - Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
RCIA 7:00 p.m.

Centering Prayer

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

Thursday Evening-December 18
Immaculate Conception—Serra Hall
7:00-8:30 pm

1562 "Christ, whom the Father hallowed and sent into the world, has, through his apostles, made their successors, the bishops namely, sharers in his consecration and mission; and these, in their turn, duly entrusted in varying degrees various members of the Church with the office of their ministry." "The function of the bishops' ministry was handed over in a subordinate degree to priests so that they might be appointed in the order of the priesthood and be *co-workers of the episcopal order* for the proper fulfillment of the apostolic mission that had been entrusted to it by Christ."

1563 "Because it is joined with the episcopal order the office of priests shares in the authority by which Christ himself builds up and sanctifies and rules his Body. Hence the priesthood of priests, while presupposing the sacraments of initiation, is nevertheless conferred by its own particular sacrament. Through that sacrament priests by the anointing of the Holy Spirit are signed with a special character and so are configured to Christ the priest in such a way that they are able to act in the person of Christ the head."

1564 "Whilst not having the supreme degree of the pontifical office, and notwithstanding the fact that they depend on the bishops in the exercise of their own proper power, the priests are for all that associated with them by reason of their sacerdotal dignity; and in virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, after the image of Christ, the supreme and eternal priest, they are consecrated in order to preach the Gospel and shepherd the faithful as well as to celebrate divine worship *as true priests of the New Testament*."

1565 Through the sacrament of Holy Orders priests share in the universal dimensions of the mission that Christ entrusted to the apostles. The spiritual gift they have received in ordination prepares them, not for a limited and restricted mission, "but for the fullest, in fact the universal mission of salvation 'to the end of the earth,'"4"prepared in spirit to preach the Gospel everywhere."

1566 "It is in the Eucharistic cult or in the *Eucharistic assembly* of the faithful (*synaxis*) that they exercise in a supreme degree their sacred office; there, acting in the person of Christ and proclaiming his mystery, they unite the votive offerings of the faithful to the sacrifice of Christ their head, and in the sacrifice of the Mass they make present again and apply, until the coming of the Lord, the unique sacrifice of the New Testament, that namely of Christ offering himself once for all a spotless victim to the Father." From this unique sacrifice their whole priestly ministry draws its strength.

PARISH & COMMUNITY

Upcoming Vocations Event:



"Hasta en Heaven Juegan Soccer"
(Even in Heaven They Play Soccer)
Soccer Tournament

Monday, January 19, 2015

Mater Dei Catholic High School

1615 Mater Dei Drive, Chula Vista, CA 91913

Come enjoy a fun day of soccer! Our annual soccer tournament returns once again, so gather your friends and compete against other teams from throughout our:

A) Children (8-13)

B) Youth (14-17)

C) Young Adult, Adults, & Priests/Seminarians

(Organizer-coach will receive the game schedule on the 14th)

EVANGELII GAUDIUM- Pope Francis

30. Each particular Church, as a portion of the Catholic Church under the leadership of its bishop, is likewise called to missionary conversion. It is the primary subject of evangelization, since it is the concrete manifestation of the one Church in one specific place, and in it "the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of Christ is truly present and operative". It is the Church incarnate in a certain place, equipped with all the means of salvation bestowed by Christ, but with local features. Its joy in communicating Jesus Christ is expressed both by a concern to preach him to areas in greater need and in constantly going forth to the outskirts of its own territory or towards new sociocultural settings. Wherever the need for the light and the life of the Risen Christ is greatest, it will want to be there. To make this missionary impulse ever more focused, generous and fruitful, I encourage each particular Church to undertake a resolute process of discernment, purification and reform.

BIBLICAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

The 12th Annual West Coast Biblical Studies Conference will be hosted at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish in San Diego on Jan. 9-10, 2015. Featuring Scott Hahn, Brant Pitre, Michael Barber, and John Kincaid, the conference will focus on The Mystery of Christ in the Church: A Study of Ephesians. Registration is \$30 by Jan. 1 at www.jpccatholic.com, and space is limited.

All Jesse Tree presents need to put in the box in the hall no later than 10am on Monday Morning December 15.

WE ARE CATHOLIC. WELCOME HOME.

Visit
www.catholicscomehome.org

Retirement Fund for Religious

Support religious communities. "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders.

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Saturday 10:00 to 4:00
Sunday 9:30 to 3:00

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

Remember, your purchases help to support our parish.

Re-usable shopping bags with Immaculate Conception logo,

and

Advent candles, Advent calendars, and Christmas cards are now available.

THANK YOU

TOUGH LOVE IS STILL LOVE

—Jennifer Roback Morse

The recent two-week-long synod on the family in the Vatican has been an on-going source of headlines around the world, and not just in Catholic media. After a year of reflection, it will resume next year. In the meantime, many critics are claiming that it is impossible to reconcile traditional Catholic teachings on sexuality with 21st century compassion. Jennifer Roback Morse sees things differently.

My husband I attended a marriage preparation retreat in a small town in central California a few weeks ago. We were by far the oldest people there. The retreat was developed by an order of priests who are very orthodox in their teaching about marriage, family and human sexuality.

They do not soft-pedal anything. They do not cut corners. In fact in the small-group breakout sessions, one of the young couples said “this is not the easiest place in town to get married.” All the other young couples in the group nodded in agreement. “But this is my parish. This is where I was baptized. We wanted to get married here.”

So I feel confident when I say that these priests are holding the line on orthodoxy. Over the course of the weekend, the presenters told their personal faith journey. Almost all of the presenters at this conference had had some significant irregularity in their marriage situations.

What I saw was the Church “welcoming sinners.”

One couple recounted their journey from civil marriage to sacramental marriage. Their priest asked that they live together “as brother and sister” in the months leading up to the con-validation of their marriage in the Church.

For the uninitiated, this means: they had already been married civilly for some time and had children. One party had become Catholic. They wanted to get their marriage validated so they could have a sacramental marriage. Since they were not married in the eyes of the Church, they could not licitly have sex with each other. So their priest asked them to abstain until their wedding.

I heard no whining and complaining from this couple. What the husband had to say was quite astonishing. He spoke about how beautiful it was to have that period of time with his wife where they were not being sexual with one another. He spoke of how it deepened their love for each other. They were both grateful to the priest for making this challenging demand of them. They obviously could have reported on the difficulty of the request. But there they were, telling the 20 or so 20-something couples, how grateful they were.

Another couple shared that they had each been married before. One of their marriages had ended through death, the other through an annulment. Each of them had sterilized themselves during the course of their first marriages. The husband had made the decision to have a vasectomy. The wife decided to have her tubes tied. She decided this without consulting her then-husband. She had

it done while she was in recovery from delivering her third child.

This couple was the most powerful couple of the whole weekend. They sat in front of us weeping openly about these decisions to sterilize themselves. They came to see that the reasons they gave themselves originally were not good enough. They spoke of their regrets. The most powerful regret was that they could not become parents together with their new sacramental spouse.

They spoke of their love for the church. “No one told me it was wrong.” The man said repeatedly, through his tears. “If only I had known. If only someone had told me.”

I thought to myself: there are probably millions of stories like this. People who followed the Teachings of the World. People who found out only too late that the Teachings of the Church were more profound than they had ever been led to believe.

My point here is twofold. First I am amazed how much these people love the church. I was amazed at how much they felt that the church’s teaching had been wiser and more humane than all the things they had been doing before.

Second, the World would have us believe that an order of very orthodox priests could not possibly be “compassionate” or “pastoral.” Yet there they were, both “welcoming” and orthodox.

These very orthodox priests were obviously not compromising one iota on church teaching. And yet somehow they were finding a way to help people work through their marriage irregularities and their past sins. What they had at the end of that process was not just ordinary-everyday-humdrum Catholics. They had really passionately committed Catholics.

I can attest to this pattern from personal experience. When I went back to the Catholic Church after a lapse of twelve long miserable years, I was lucky. The chaplain at George Mason University, where I taught at the time, welcomed me back gently. He heard my confession. I was in the Diocese of Arlington Virginia, which has a reputation for orthodoxy. I was able to learn more and more about the beauty of the Catholic faith and its teaching on marriage, family and human sexuality.

I am grateful that Fr Cilinski didn’t take any nonsense from me. I am grateful for the witness of the writers in the Arlington Catholic Herald, especially [Elizabeth Foss](#). I learned so much from her.

It seems to me that this must be the very sort of thing that Pope Francis wishes for all of us to do. Find people where they are. Whatever their situation might be, throw them a life preserver. Get them on board the ship and help them recover from what they’ve been through. And those people will be our deepest and most committed next-generation of active orthodox committed Catholics.

If you are in an irregular situation, the Church will work with you to make it right. Go to the priest, and tell the truth, the whole story. He will help you.

Orthodoxy is welcoming, because it is truthful.