

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)

**January 25, 2015**

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

|    |          |  |    |
|----|----------|--|----|
| 26 | 8 AM     | <i>Saints Timothy &amp; Titus</i><br>Priest's Intentions | RP |
| 27 | 8 AM     | <i>St. Angela Merici</i><br>†Leonard Bucsit              | RE |
| 28 | 8 AM     | <i>St. Thomas Aquinas</i><br>†Joseph P. Hawk             | RP |
| 29 | 8 AM     | <i>Weekday</i><br>Priest's Intentions                    | RP |
| 30 | 8 AM     | <i>Weekday</i><br>Medue Family, SI                       | RP |
| 31 | 8 AM     | <i>St. John Bosco</i><br>Rev. Msgr. Robert Ecker, SI     | RP |
|    | 5:15 PM  | Rev. Richard Perozich, SI                                | RP |
| 01 | 8:30 AM  | †Kristan Wagner  | RP |
|    | 10:00 AM | Trevor Spera, SI   | RE |
|    | 11:30 AM | †William Kennedy   | RP |
|    | 5:15 PM  | Priest's Intentions                                      | RP |

## APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

**January:** Intentions of the Holy Father  
**Universal:** That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.  
**Evangelization:** That religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

## 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

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 26 | Rev. Peter Navarra     |
| 27 | Rev. Harry Neely, OSA  |
| 28 | Rev. John Nesbitt      |
| 29 | Rev. Duong Nguyen, SVD |
| 30 | Rev. Augustine Obasi   |
| 31 | Rev. Emmanuel Ochigbo  |
| 01 | Pope Francis           |

## PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: 2 Tm 1:1-8, Ps 96:1-10  
 Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2-11; Mk 3:31-35  
 Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20  
 Thursday: 1Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25  
 Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-40; Mk 4:26-34  
 Saturday: Heb 11:1-19; (Ps) Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

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



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

## 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. Morales, 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.*

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 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    |
| Mariana S. Tadana    | Alice Perry          |
| William Kennedy      | Joseph Moreno        |

## WATER AND THE SPIRIT

— *Hippolytus, priest*

### FROM THE PASTOR

That Jesus should come and be baptized by John is surely cause for amazement. To think of the infinite river that gladdens the city of God being bathed in a poor little stream of the eternal, the unfathomable fountainhead that gives life to all men being immersed in the shallow waters of this transient world! He who fills all creation, leaving no place devoid of his presence, he who is incomprehensible to the angels and hidden from the sight of man, came to be baptized because it was his will. And behold, the heavens opened and a voice said: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

The beloved Father begets love, and spiritual light generates light inaccessible. In his divine nature he is my only Son, though he was known as the son of Joseph. This is my beloved Son. Though hungry himself, he feeds thousands; though weary, he refreshes those who labor. He has no place to lay his head yet holds all creation in his hand. By his passion [inflicted on him by others], he frees us from the passions [unleashed by our disobedience]; by receiving a blow on the cheek he gives the world its liberty; by being pierced in the side he heals the wound of Adam.

I ask you now to pay close attention, for I want to return to that fountain of life and contemplate its healing waters at their source.

The Father of immortality sent his immortal Son and Word into the world; he came to us men to cleanse us with water and the Spirit. To give us a new birth that would make our bodies and souls immortal, he breathed into us the spirit of life and armed us with incorruptibility. Now if we become immortal, we shall also be divine; and if we become divine after rebirth in baptism through water and the Holy Spirit, we shall also be coheirs with Christ after the resurrection of the dead.

Therefore, in a herald's voice I cry: Let peoples of every nation come and receive the immortality that flows from baptism. This is the water that is linked to the Spirit, the water that irrigates Paradise, makes the earth fertile, gives growth to plants, and brings forth living creatures. In short, this is the water by which a man receives new birth and life, the water in which even Christ was baptized, the water into which the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove.

Whoever goes down into these waters of rebirth with faith renounces the devil and pledges himself to Christ. He repudiates the enemy and confesses that Christ is God, throws off his servitude, and is raised to filial status. He comes up from baptism resplendent as the sun, radiant in his purity, but above all, he comes as a son of God and a coheir with Christ. To him and to his most holy and life-giving Spirit be glory and power now and for ever. Amen.

**AROUND THE PARISH**

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

January 18, 2015  
**Total Collection: \$4,608.07**  
 Parishioners: \$2,938.00 Visitors: \$1,670.07  
 Total contributing households: 100

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 5:15 Sat  | \$713.00   |
| 8:30 Sun  | \$1,195.95 |
| 10:00 Sun | \$1,220.07 |
| 11:30 Sun | \$ 655.00  |
| 5:15 Sun  | \$ 649.50  |
| Mailed    | \$ 17500   |

**WALK FOR LIFE**

Please join the **3rd Annual Walk for Life** in Balboa Park on **Sat, Jan 31 from 9am-12pm.**

Speakers include Ruth Institute President Jennifer Roback Morse, African-American Baptist Reverend Walter Hoye, and Hispanics for Life President and EWTN personality Astrid Bennet Gutierrez whose talk will be bilingual. Everyone is welcome! Visit [www.sandiegowalkforlife.net](http://www.sandiegowalkforlife.net)

**FINALLY! 2015 Calendars have arrived. Parishioners are invited to pick up calendars in Serra Hall after Mass.**

**EXPENSES**  
 January 14-19, 2015

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Copier lease       | \$241.16 |
| Music Ministry     | \$932.50 |
| Office supplies    | \$178.30 |
| Parish envelopes   | \$148.20 |
| Pest control       | \$100.00 |
| Priest Pension     | \$932.91 |
| Property insurance | \$965.34 |
| Telephone          | \$228.82 |
| Waste disposal     | \$382.15 |
| Workers Comp       | \$203.12 |

**Total: \$4,312.50**

**NOTE: CORRECTION**  
**MISSA CANTATA**  
**January 30, 2015**


10:00 a.m. - Missa cantata of St. John Bosco with veneration of first class relics afterwards.

11:00 a.m. - In the parish hall..."A Tale of Two Oratories: St. Philip Neri and St. John Bosco," a lecture by John B. Polhamus. (Title is tentative and may change.)

11:15a.m. - In the parish hall...Showing of movie, "Giovanni Bosco" (1935), in Italian with English subtitles

**FAMILY CATECHESIS**

Continues on January 25 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



**2015 Baptism Schedule**

**Feb 2 Class**  
**Feb 8 Baptisms**  
 (see website for more dates)

**WE ARE CATHOLIC. WELCOME HOME.**

Visit  
[www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org)

**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](http://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](mailto: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>.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

## AROUND THE PARISH

### Parish Calendar

**January**

|    |                        |                        |
|----|------------------------|------------------------|
| 27 | Gentle Stretch Class   | 5:00 p.m.              |
| 28 | Choir Practice<br>RCIA | 5:30 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m. |
| 29 | Centering Prayer       | 7:00 p.m.              |
| 30 | Latin Mass             | 10:00 a.m.             |

**February**

|    |   |                                     |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 02 | I.C. Seniors Luncheon Meeting                                       | 11:00 a.m.                          |
| 03 | Gentle Stretch Class<br>Pastoral Council (members)                  | 5:00 p.m.<br>6:00 p.m.              |
| 04 | Finance Council (members)<br>Choir Practice<br>RCIA                 | 4:00 p.m.<br>5:30 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m. |
| 08 | Parish Registration Sunday<br>Parish Breakfast<br>Family Catechesis | 9:30 a.m.<br>9:45 a.m.              |
| 10 | Gentle Stretch Class<br>Choir Practice<br>RCIA                      | 5:00 p.m.<br>5:30 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m. |
| 11 | Choir Practice<br>RCIA  | 5:30 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.              |
| 12 | Centering Prayer  | 7:00 p.m.                           |
| 16 | Presidents Day<br>Parish office will be closed.                     |                                     |
| 17 | Gentle Stretch Class  | 5:00 p.m.                           |

### **Support Group for Separated/Divorced (Available at in Coronado and Solana Beach)**

**Sacred Heart Parish** offers a free 13-week healing support group for the separated and divorced beginning Tuesday, February 10, and ending May 5. It is held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Church Ministry Center, 655 C Avenue, Coronado. For information, call Martha, 619.435.6136 or Tom, 619.437.6689, or go online: <http://www.sacredheartcor.org/content/new-paths-separated-and-divorced>

Support for anyone suffering from the pain and loss associated with a separation or divorce. We meet Sundays at 10:15 a.m. at **St. James Catholic Church** – Ministry Center in Solana Beach. For more information contact Frank Grant at (760) 533-1520, fwgrant@gmail.com or Jan Nadler PhD at (760) 814-8604.

### Centering Prayer

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

Thursday Evening-January 29  
Immaculate Conception—Serra Hall  
7:00-8:30 pm

### **FAITH FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CHURCH**

**166** Faith is a personal act - the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. But faith is not an isolated act. No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone. You have not given yourself faith as you have not given yourself life. The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others. Our love for Jesus and for our neighbor impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers. I cannot believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith I help support others in the faith.

**167** "I believe" (*Apostles' Creed*) is the faith of the Church professed personally by each believer, principally during Baptism. "We believe" (*Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed*) is the faith of the Church confessed by the bishops assembled in council or more generally by the liturgical assembly of believers. "I believe" is also the Church, our mother, responding to God by faith as she teaches us to say both "I believe" and "We believe".

**168** It is the Church that believes first, and so bears, nourishes and sustains my faith. Everywhere, it is the Church that first confesses the Lord: "Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you", as we sing in the hymn "*Te Deum*"; with her and in her, we are won over and brought to confess: "I believe", "We believe". It is through the Church that we receive faith and new life in Christ by Baptism. In the *Rituale Romanum*, the minister of Baptism asks the catechumen: "What do you ask of God's Church?" And the answer is: "Faith." "What does faith offer you?" "Eternal life."

**169** Salvation comes from God alone; but because we receive the life of faith through the Church, she is our mother: "We believe the Church as the mother of our new birth, and not in the Church as if she were the author of our salvation." Because she is our mother, she is also our teacher in the faith.

**170** We do not believe in formulas, but in those realities they express, which faith allows us to touch. "The believer's act [of faith] does not terminate in the propositions, but in the realities [which they express]." All the same, we do approach these realities with the help of formulations of the faith which permit us to express the faith and to hand it on, to celebrate it in community, to assimilate and live on it more and more.

**171** The Church, "the pillar and bulwark of the truth", faithfully guards "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints". She guards the memory of Christ's words; it is she who from generation to generation hands on the apostles' confession of faith. As a mother who teaches her children to speak and so to understand and communicate, the Church our Mother teaches us the language of faith in order to introduce us to the understanding and the life of faith.

# PARISH & COMMUNITY

### 2014 Contribution Letter

If you wish to receive a letter for your 2014 donations, please contact the parish office to request one. Call 619-295-4141 or email parish@ic-sandiego.org.

### LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY

On Tuesday, January 13, 2015 we will begin a twelve week course of Ignatian Prayer entitled 'Lord, Teach Me to Pray.' This wonderful opportunity is open to men (the women's section is already full) to learn a special form of deeper prayer taught by Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Wives, daughters, girlfriends, and friends tell the men in your lives about this wonderful opportunity.

Over the twelve weeks your prayer life will improve by leaps and bounds and I really ask you to consider taking part in this wonderful spiritual opportunity. It is such a wonderful opportunity that I actually recommend that if you already are in my weekly Bible study and only have time to do one of these faith formation programs over the next several weeks that you choose the Ignatian Prayer course (of course you can do both if able!!!). After this instruction in prayer you'll return to Bible study that much more able to focus on the Word.

To join the course you must contact the facilitator Michael Burke, to sign up at micheldeberg@gmail.com There is no cost to this program--all the materials are provided for you. Please sign up quickly for we can only take a limited number.

Chris O'Donnell, bsp  
Director of Catechetical Ministry  
San Rafael

### Holy Heroes! Called to Be Saints, Sent Forth as Heroes---A Day Retreat for Young Adults

Sat, February 28th at 9:30AM-3:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center - 3888 Paducah Dr. Come join fellow young adults (Ages 18-39) for a day retreat as we reflect on living our faith in today's world! Loving God and actively sharing the faith is how San Pedro Calungsod, a recently canonized young Filipino missionary, lived and died. May we follow his example of being truly a holy hero. Eucharistic Celebration 4:00PM. \*Free event with lunch provided. RSVP to Roland at rrs2605@yahoo.com Facebook.com/SPCRetreat

### EVANGELII GAUDIUM- Pope Francis

38. It is important to draw out the pastoral consequences of the Council's teaching, which reflects an ancient conviction of the Church. First, it needs to be said that in preaching the Gospel a fitting sense of proportion has to be maintained. This would be seen in the frequency with which certain themes are brought up and in the emphasis given to them in preaching. For example, if in the course of the liturgical year a parish priest speaks about temperance ten times but only mentions charity or justice two or three times, an imbalance results, and precisely those virtues which ought to be most present in preaching and catechesis are overlooked. The same thing happens when we speak more about law than about grace, more about the Church than about Christ, more about the Pope than about God's word.

39. Just as the organic unity existing among the virtues means that no one of them can be excluded from the Christian ideal, so no truth may be denied. The integrity of the Gospel message must not be deformed. What is more, each truth is better understood when related to the harmonious totality of the Christian message; in this context all of the truths are important and illumine one another.

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, 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,

Check out new items that arrive weekly.

THANK YOU

## FLORIDA BISHOPS RESPOND TO STATE'S CHANGE IN DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

"Such a change advances the notion that marriage is only about the affective gratification of consenting adults"

*The bishops of Florida have issued a statement addressing the redefinition of marriage in Florida to accommodate couples of the same sex. Same-sex marriage is now recognized in 36 states and Washington, D.C..*

The full statement follows:

Tomorrow, with the expiration of a stay on a U.S. District Court ruling, marriage licenses for same sex couples are being issued for the first time in our state. The Catholic bishops of Florida are deeply disappointed by Judge Hinkle's ruling, as well as refusals by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States to stay the decision while appeals pend.

The conjugal nature of a marriage between a man and a woman has provided for millennia the basis for norms of marital exclusivity and permanence that made possible stable families necessary for human flourishing. In redefining marriage to include same sex couples, the judge has in effect overturned a state constitutional amendment approved by nearly 62% of the electorate in a 2008 ballot initiative.

How society understands marriage has great public significance. Because of this, redefining civil "marriage" to include two persons of the same sex will have far-reaching consequences in society. Such a change advances the notion that marriage is only about the affective gratification of consenting adults. Such a redefinition of marriage does nothing to safeguard a child's right to a mother and father and to be raised in a stable family where his or her development and well-being is served to the greatest extent possible.

Redefinition of marriage will have implications not yet fully understood. The term

"marriage" can be found in family law, employment law, trusts and estates, healthcare law, tax law, property law, and many others. These laws also affect and pervasively regulate public and private institutions including religious institutions, such as churches, schools, and hospitals. Besides the predictably disruptive effects, imposing this redefinition of marriage threatens both religious liberty and the freedom of individuals to conscientiously object as already seen in those states that have redefined marriage to accommodate same sex couples.

Marriage based on the complementarity of the sexes is the lifeblood of family, and family is the foundation of our society. The crisis that sadly the family is experiencing today will only be aggravated by imposing this redefinition of marriage. Society must rediscover the irreplaceable roles of both mother and father who bring unique gifts to the education and rearing of children.

For the benefit of society and the common good, the conjugal understanding of marriage between a husband and a wife and complementarity of a father and mother must be preserved so that the family can be a school of love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, mutual respect, patience and humility in the midst of a world darkened by selfishness and conflict.

Our parishes, family life offices and other ministries are available to assist those seeking to understand the truth and beauty of marriage and to assist husbands and wives to strengthen their bonds. Additional resources can be found at [www.marriageuniqueforareason.org](http://www.marriageuniqueforareason.org) and [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) / [www.portumatrimonio.org](http://www.portumatrimonio.org).

We look forward to the first visit of Pope Francis to the United States, where he will lead the **World Meeting of Families** in Philadelphia, from September 22-27, 2015. For each of us, our true glory is in our capacity to love as God loves; and no better means exists to teach the meaning of love than the family. May we speak the truth in love, and may family life led by father and mother flourish again in our state, nation and throughout the world.