

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)

**February 15, 2015**

**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., 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**

16	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Mario Sanfilippo	RP
17	8 AM	<i>The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order</i> †Diva Andrade Azevedo	RE
18	8 AM	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	RP
	12 PM	In thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin Mary	RE
19	7 P		RP
	8 AM	<i>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</i> †Elli O'Donnell Lorch	RP
20	8 AM	<i>Friday after Ash Wednesday</i> †Bonifacio Hipolito	RP
	8 AM	<i>St. Peter Damien</i> Marie Nopper, SI	RP
22	5:15 PM	†Maria Vitale	RP
	8:30 AM	†Lynne Zabka	RP
	10:00 AM	George Cruz, SI	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 PM	People of Immaculate Conception	RP

**APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER**

**February:** Intentions of the Holy Father  
*Universal:* That prisoners, especially the young, may be able to rebuild lives of dignity.  
*Evangelization:* That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.

**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**

16	Rev. Adrian Peelo, OFM
17	Rev. Richard Perozich
18	Rev. Michael Pham
19	Rev. Michel Pham, OSB
20	Rev. Phien Pham
21	Rev. Jose Pimentel, OP
22	Rev. Msgr. John Portman

**PRAY THE SCRIPTURES**

Monday: Gn 4:1-25; Ps 50:1-21; Mk 8:11-13  
 Tuesday: Gn 6:5-7:10; Ps 29:1-10; Mk 8:14-21  
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-18  
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-6; Lk 9:22-25  
 Friday: Is 58:1-9; Ps 51:3-19; Mt 9:14-15  
 Saturday: Is 58:9-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

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

**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.*

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 Schmittten,	Olga Hritz,
Karina Sosa,	Imelda Hoeckelmann,
Clyde Southern, Jr.,	Angelina Olivarez,
Mariana S. Tadana,	Alice Perry,
William Kennedy,	Joseph Moreno
Robert McMahan,	Louie Serrano
David Diaz,	Gustavo Sosa

## A JOYFUL LENT

### FROM THE PASTOR

With the change from do whatever I want to a discipline of prayer, fasting, and mercy, the idea of Lent being a joyful experience may sound odd to the average American who has so much in possessions, power, and prestige compared to the majority of humanity in 2015.

But this is a training period for our life's work, a boot camp to use the military or gym phrases, putting aside the old life and training our minds, hearts, bodies, and souls for a specific purpose which the opening prayer of the Mass for Ash Wednesday tells us:

*"Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint."*

Our work is to battle spiritual evils: pride, ire, greed, envy, sloth, gluttony, and lust. Our enemies are Satan and the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of those souls whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Our weapons of spiritual warfare are: humility, meekness, generosity, magnanimity, diligence, temperance, and chastity. But we must be trained in these through experience so we know how to use them well.

Spiritual warfare is like the military. We have to break our comfortable faith like Goldie Hawn who in the movie *Private Benjamin* said,

*"See, I did join the army, but I joined a \*different\* army. I joined the one with the condos and the private rooms."*

Just as young adults in the military begin their service with a break from regular life and of yielding to the capricious whims of their thoughts, their urges and their desires, for the discipline imposed by the drill sergeant, Christians also each year in imitation of Jesus' 40 days of prayer and fasting for His public ministry do the same.

During the boot camp the soldier is called to reveille at 5 am, awakened for surprise inspections, kept beyond normal working hours, deprived of sleep and food on his schedule and fed on the military's schedule, told when he can leave and when he has to stay on base, given a rigorous exercise routine, shown discipline, humility, obedience, and mortification.

When boot camp is finished, the soldier is ready to go to battle. After the battle is finished, he

can rest. The prayer of the second Sunday of Lent brings us this message

*"O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory."*

If 40 days were good enough for Jesus, they are good enough for me to imitate Him. Lenten days begin on Ash Wednesday and end at Holy Thursday Mass, Sundays are excluded in the count.

We begin this Lent on Ash Wednesday. We acknowledge our sinfulness, our need for Jesus' forgiveness, receive the sign of ashes, develop our attitude of repentance from sin and turning to goodness, and from our weakness that must be brought to perfection by grace.

The disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving-mercy. We abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays, and during the Triduum on Good Friday. We fast either the full fast of one meal / day and no snacks, or the modified fast of two small meals and a regular one without snacks.

We go to confession during Lent, one of the precepts of the church, taking a careful inventory of our iniquities and sins, and asking forgiveness with a firm purpose of amendment to rid ourselves of bad habits. The custom of "giving up" something for Lent is a fine devotion, but we need to give up our really sinful tendencies not just for 40 days, but as a discipline to leave them behind forever.

To attend daily Mass more often with reception of the Eucharist is helpful. The Stations of the Cross, visits to Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament during this time develop in us the habit of doing so for the rest of our lives so that we continue the spiritual warfare with Jesus who has conquered sin and death.

Lent, the boot camp, ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening; but we soldiers are not yet released from our formation. We continue on with the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday and abstinence from meat with fasting as well. Then after the Easter Vigil, we rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus who conquers the devil, sin and death.

With our new discipline, we go out into the world formed anew into the image of Jesus, leaving behind our undisciplined lives, and now rejoice in the new life of grace in Jesus, the risen Lord to battle evil each day.

## AROUND THE PARISH

### Gifts of Treasure

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

February 8, 2015

**Total Collection: \$5,322.07**

Parishioners: \$3051.33 Visitors: \$2270.74

Total contributing households: 91

5:15 Sat	\$777.43
8:30 Sun	\$1076.60
10:00 Sun	\$1726.28
11:30 Sun	\$ 822.26
5:15 Sun	\$ 546.50
Mailed	\$ 373.00

### EXPENSES

February 2-6, 2015

Gas & Electric	\$679.64
Music Ministry	\$722.50
Payroll (incl. tax)	\$2,760.66
Payroll Service.	\$127.70
Pension	\$372.52
Priest Supply	\$1,350.00

**Total: \$6,013.02**

### Presidents Day, February 16

The parish office and Serra Gifts will be closed in observance of the national holiday on Monday, February 16.

### 40 Days For Life February 18-March 29

Focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion.

For information on the campaign, visit  
[www.respectlifeneews.com](http://www.respectlifeneews.com)

### FAMILY CATECHESIS

Continues on **February 22** 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

### INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Join Father Richard for an introduction to the Bible beginning Wednesday, **February 25**, in the Brides Room, Serra Hall.

The class will be held for five consecutive Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. See bulletin insert for details.

Call (619) 886-1057 for information.

### Our Lady's Living Rosary

Guest speakers, Frank & Trudy Bonack, will give a brief presentation on "Our Lady's Living Rosary." They will be available in the vestibule and in the courtyard to sign up those interested in this simple and devotion.

### Ash Wednesday, February 18

**Mass--8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

**Distribution of Ashes Liturgy of Word: 12 Noon**

### MODERN DAY MARTYRS

Christians are becoming martyrs for the faith in record numbers. Some suffer scorn for beliefs. Others suffer loss of jobs, possessions, businesses, freedom, and some, even their lives.

We Christians need to take note of these people. They are examples of how deep a love of Jesus can transform our own lives, how this love can overcome fear, dispel cowardice on our parts, and make us true witnesses always and everywhere to risk everything for Jesus.

The names will appear here. Their stories can be read on our website <http://www.ic-sandiego.org> under the heading Information and Teaching.

Catholic apologist Michael Voris reminds us modern day Catholics that *"dying for the faith is nothing more than the last logical step in having lived for the faith. We must always be prepared for martyrdom—just sometimes more urgently than others."*



### 2015 Baptism Schedule

**March 2 Class  
March 8 Baptisms  
(see [ic-sandiego.org](http://ic-sandiego.org) for more dates)**

### 15 SPACES LEFT FOR OUR 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>.

**AROUND THE PARISH**

**Parish Calendar**

**February**

18	Ash Wednesday Choir Practice RCIA	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
20	Soup Supper Stations of the Cross	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
22	Quarters & Cans Sunday Family Catechesis	9:45 a.m.
24	RECOSS Conference Gentle Stretch Class (cancelled) EMSD	8:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
25	RECOSS Conference Choir Practice RCIA	8:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
26	Centering Prayer	7:00 p.m.
27	Soup Supper Stations of the Cross	6:00 p.m. 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-February 26  
Immaculate Conception—Serra Hall  
7:00-8:30 pm

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL:  
LUMEN GENTIUM**

**THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH**

3. The Son, therefore, came, sent by the Father. It was in Him, before the foundation of the world, that the Father chose us and predestined us to become adopted sons, for in Him it pleased the Father to re-establish all things. To carry out the will of the Father, Christ inaugurated the Kingdom of heaven on earth and revealed to us the mystery of that kingdom. By His obedience He brought about redemption. The Church, or, in other words, the kingdom of Christ now present in mystery, grows visibly through the power of God in the world. This inauguration and this growth are both symbolized by the blood and water which flowed from the open side of a crucified Jesus, and are foretold in the words of the Lord referring to His death on the Cross: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself". As often as the sacrifice of the cross in which Christ our Passover was sacrificed, is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried on, and, in the sacrament of the eucharistic bread, the unity of all believers who form one body in Christ is both expressed and brought about. All men are called to this union with Christ, who is the light of the world, from whom we go forth, through whom we live, and toward whom our whole life strains.

**Quarters and Cans Sunday  
February 22, 2015**

During our second collection next Sunday, all money collected will be used here at Immaculate Conception to assist our brothers and sisters who come to us in need. Your generous donations will continue to be used to help feed, and in some cases assist those who are in need of our help with rent and utilities. The parish also provides gas and grocery cards. Resource information is also available so people can access public and private agencies that can help with their needs.

Food items collected will be taken by our volunteers to the Catholic Charities Food Resource Center. Please make sure these items are in non-breakable containers, unopened, and the dates have not expired. There is always a need for the following items:

- ◆ Canned goods including vegetables, fruit, chili, tuna fish, spam, chicken, beef, beans, soups, and spaghetti sauce;
- ◆ Peanut butter, jelly, and honey;
- ◆ Cereals, pasta, rice, and beans;
- ◆ Any paper goods such as toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, cups, napkins, Kleenex tissues, baby wipes;
- ◆ Hygiene items such as shampoo, soaps, toothpaste, tooth brushes, dental floss, mouthwash, disposable razors, shaving cream, lotions and feminine products;
- ◆ Plastic, paper or reusable grocery bags for carrying the above.

**Thank You**

On behalf of the entire Quarter and Cans Committee and Father Richard we thank you for your continued support of these important programs as we try to follow Our Lord's command and put the Holy Gospel into action.

# PARISH & COMMUNITY

## SHOP IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!!

The Gift Shop volunteers act as liaison for Immaculate Conception Church by giving out general information of the area to all visitors.

Whether you want to volunteer once a week, once a month or more, and enjoy meeting people and making new friends... **This is for you!**

If you are interested in volunteering please contact

Liz Fielder, Gift Shop Manager at 619.295.4141, ext. 13, or email [lfielder@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:lfielder@ic-sandiego.org) for more information.

## EVANGELII GAUDIUM- Pope Francis

42. All of this has great relevance for the preaching of the Gospel, if we are really concerned to make its beauty more clearly recognized and accepted by all. Of course, we will never be able to make the Church's teachings easily understood or readily appreciated by everyone. Faith always remains something of a cross; it retains a certain obscurity which does not detract from the firmness of its assent. Some things are understood and appreciated only from the standpoint of this assent, which is a sister to love, beyond the range of clear reasons and arguments. We need to remember that all religious teaching ultimately has to be reflected in the teacher's way of life, which awakens the assent of the heart by its nearness, love and witness.

## LOVE OUR PRIESTS Prayer Group



Please join us for a special Mass honoring  
**REVEREND RICHARD L. PEROZICH**  
PASTOR  
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OLD TOWN - SAN DIEGO, CA

*I am the Good Shepherd, I know my sheep, and mine know me.*  
*John 10: 7-10*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015  
TIME: 10:00 A.M.  
PLACE: ASCENSION PARISH  
11292 CLAIREMONT MESA BLVD.  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92124-1524



*Father Perozich is the pastor at the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception in San Diego, California and has enjoyed several interesting assignments, including two years in Honduras. We know you will enjoy learning of his journey to the priesthood.*

**THE MASS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN INFORMAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON**

*Bring a friend & a dish to share!*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.**

See our online catalog at:  
<http://www.ic-sandiego.org/gift-shop>

**THANK YOU**

**GRACE WORKING IN THE SOUL**

*From a homily by a spiritual writer of the fourth century*

*May you be filled to the complete fullness of Christ*

Those who have been considered worthy to go forth as the sons of God and to be born again of the Holy Spirit from on high, and who hold within them the Christ who renews them and fills them with light, are directed by the Spirit in varied and different ways and in their spiritual repose they are led invisibly in their hearts by grace.

At times, they are like men who mourn and lament over their fellow men, and pouring forth prayers for the whole human race, they plunge into tears and lamentation, on fire with spiritual love for mankind.

At other times they are enkindled by the Spirit with love and exultation that, were it possible, they would clasp in their embrace all mankind, without discrimination, good and bad alike.

Sometimes they are cast down below all mankind in lowliness of spirit, so that they reckon theirs to be the lowest and most abject of conditions.

And sometimes they are held by the Spirit in ineffable joy.

At one time they are like a brave man who puts on the king's full armor and goes down into battle; he fights bravely against the enemy and defeats them. In like manner, the spiritual man takes up the heavenly arms of the Spirit and marches against the enemy and engaging in battle tramples the foe beneath his feet.

At another time the soul is at rest in deepest silence, tranquility and peace, existing in sheer spiritual pleasure and in ineffable repose and a perfect state.

Again, the soul is instructed by grace in a certain understanding in the ineffable wisdom and the inscrutable knowledge of the Spirit on matters which neither tongue nor lips can utter.

Then again, the soul becomes like any ordinary man.

In such varied ways does grace work within them and many are the means by which it leads the soul, renewing it according to God's will and training it in different ways so that it may be set before the heavenly Father pure and whole and blameless.

We, too, therefore must make our prayer to God and entreat in love and in great hope that he may bestow upon us the heavenly grace of the gift of the Spirit. We pray that we, too, may be guided by that Spirit and that he may lead us into the fullness of divine will and refresh us with the varied kinds of his repose, that by the help of this guidance, exercise of grace and spiritual advancement, we may be considered worthy to attain to the perfection of the fullness of Christ, as the Apostle says: that you may be filled to the complete fullness of Christ.

**FIFTY SHADES OF GREY: CONDEMNED**

Add Buffalo Catholic Bishop Richard J. Malone to the growing list of critics of the motion picture "Fifty Shades of Grey," which is set to be released in theaters next Friday.

Malone wrote a letter to his fellow U.S. bishops this week alerting them that the film, while marketed as a romantic story, is a "graphic portrayal of a young woman agreeing to be abused and degraded in a sexual relationship."

Malone wrote the letter in his capacity as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

He joins a chorus of anti-domestic violence and anti-pornography activists who have expressed concern about the film, based on the hugely popular book of the same name first published in 2011.

Malone referred bishops to a statement by the Religious Alliance Against Pornography, which reads, in part: "The contrast between the message of 'Fifty Shades of Grey' and God's design for self-giving and self-sacrificing love, marriage and sexual intimacy could not be greater. The books and the movie undermine everything that we believe as members of the faith community."

He also said the film presented an opportunity for bishops "to remind the faithful of the beauty of the church's teaching on the gift of sexual intimacy in marriage, the great dignity of women, and the moral reprehensibility of all domestic violence and sexual exploitation."

The book "Fifty Shades of Grey," by female British author E.L. James, chronicles the erotic and sadomasochistic romance between a wealthy entrepreneur and a recent college graduate who agrees to be his sex slave. More than 100 million copies of the trilogy of "Fifty Shades" books have been sold worldwide, spawning a so-called "mommy porn" genre in the publishing industry.

Groups including AntiPornography.org and the National Center on Sexual Exploitation have called on moviegoers to boycott the film and have launched social media campaigns to bolster their efforts.