

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

March 01, 2015

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
fielder@ic-sandiego.org

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

02	8 AM	Lenten Weekday Avalos Family, SI	RP
03	8 AM	St. Katherine Drexel Luffman Family, SI	RE
04	8 AM	St. Casimir Avalos Family, SI	RP
05	8 AM	Lenten Weekday † Virginia Owen	RP
06	8 AM	Lenten Weekday/World Day of Prayer † Barbara McMahan	RP
07	8 AM	Ss. Perpetua and Felicity † Jose Eduardo de Andrade Vieira	RP
	5:15 PM	† Maria Cuccia	RP
08	8:30 AM	† William Harry Richmond	RE
	10:00 AM	People of Immaculate Conception	RP
	11:30 AM	† William Kennedy	RP
	5:15 PM	† Maria de Jesus Machuca	RP

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

March: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.

Evangelization: That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always.

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

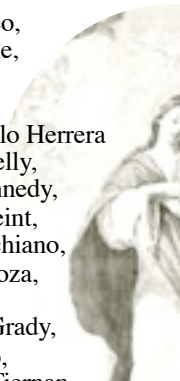
02	Bishop Robert Brom
03	Bishop Gilbert Chavez
04	Rev. James Rafferty
05	Rev. Fernando Ramirez
06	Rev. Andres Ramos
07	Rev. Bernardo Ranoa
08	Rev. Bernard Rapp

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Dn 9:4-10; Ps 79:8-13; Lk 6:36-38
 Tuesday: Is 1:10-20; Ps 50:8-23; Mt 23:1-12
 Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-16; Mt 20:17-28
 Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:106; Lk 16:19-31
 Friday: Gn 37:3-28; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-46
 Saturday: Mi 7:14-20; Ps 103:1-12; Lk 15:1-32

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

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.

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. Tadena,	Alice Perry,
William Kennedy,	Joseph Moreno,
Robert McMahan,	Louie Serrano,
David Diaz,	Gustavo Sosa,
Margie Gautier,	Floyd Watson
Patrick Piggot,	Iola Torre

PRAYER IS THE LIGHT OF THE SOUL

—Pseudo Chrysostom

FROM THE PASTOR

The highest good is prayer and conversation with God, because it means that we are in God's company and in union with him. When light enters our bodily eyes our eyesight is sharpened; when a soul is intent on God, God's inextinguishable light shines into it and makes it bright and clear. I am talking, of course, of prayer that comes from the heart and not from routine: not the prayer that is assigned to particular days or particular moments in time, but the prayer that happens continuously by day and by night.

Indeed the soul should not only turn to God at times of explicit prayer. Whatever we are engaged in, whether it is care for the poor, or some other duty, or some act of generosity, we should remember God and long for God. The love of God will be as salt is to food, making our actions into a perfect dish to set before the Lord of all things. Then it is right that we should receive the fruits of our labors, overflowing onto us through all eternity, if we have been offering them to him throughout our lives.

Prayer is the light of the soul, true knowledge of God, a mediator between God and men. Prayer lifts the soul into the heavens where it hugs God in an indescribable embrace. The soul seeks the milk of God like a baby crying for the breast. It fulfills its own vows and receives in exchange gifts better than anything that can be seen or imagined.

Prayer is a go-between linking us to God. It gives joy to the soul and calms its emotions. I warn you, though: do not imagine that prayer is simply words. Prayer is the desire for God, an indescribable devotion, not given by man but brought about by God's grace. As St Paul says: *For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself intercedes on our behalf in a way that could never be put into words.*

If God gives to someone the gift of such prayer, it is a gift of imperishable riches, a heavenly food that satisfies the spirit. Whoever tastes that food catches fire and his soul burns for ever with desire for the Lord.

To begin on this path, start by adorning your house with modesty and humility. Make it shine brightly with the light of justice. Decorate it with the gold leaf of good works, with the jewels of faithfulness and greatness of heart. Finally, to make the house perfect, raise a gable above it all, a gable of prayer. Thus you will have prepared a pure and sparkling house for the Lord. Receive the Lord into this royal and splendid dwelling — in other words: receive, by his grace, his image into the temple of your soul.

PURIFICATION THROUGH FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

—Pope St. Leo the Great

Dear friends, at every moment *the earth is full of the mercy of God*, and nature itself is a lesson for all the faithful in the worship of God. The heavens, the sea and all that is in them bear witness to the goodness and omnipotence of their Creator, and the marvelous beauty of the elements as they obey him demands from the intelligent creation a fitting expression of its gratitude.

But with the return of that season marked out in a special way by the mystery of our redemption, and of the days that lead up to the paschal feast, we are summoned more urgently to prepare ourselves by a purification of spirit.

The special note of the paschal feast is this: the whole Church rejoices in the forgiveness of sins. It rejoices in the forgiveness not only of those who are then reborn in holy baptism but also of those who are already numbered among God's adopted children.

Initially, men are made new by the rebirth of baptism. Yet there still is required a daily renewal to repair the shortcomings of our mortal nature, and whatever degree of progress has been made there is no one who should not be more advanced. All must therefore strive to ensure that on the day of redemption no one may be found in the sins of his former life.

Dear friends, what the Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion, so that the Lenten fast enjoined by the apostles may be fulfilled, not simply by abstinence from food but above all by the renunciation of sin.

There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving. This embraces under the single name of mercy many excellent works of devotion, so that the good intentions of all the faithful may be of equal value, even where their means are not. The love that we owe both God and man is always free from any obstacle that would prevent us from having a good intention. The angels sang: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth*. The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will but also with the gift of peace.

The works of mercy are innumerable. Their very variety brings this advantage to those who are true Christians, that in the matter of almsgiving not only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part. Those who are unequal in their capacity to give can be equal in the love within their hearts.

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 22, 2015

Total Collection: \$5,447.00

Parishioners: \$3433.00 Visitors: \$2014.00

Total contributing households: 107

5:15 Sat	\$822.49
8:30 Sun	\$1162.93
10:00 Sun	\$1683.38
11:30 Sun	\$ 862.79
5:15 Sun	\$ 360.41
Mailed	\$ 555.00

Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal: \$27,000

Paid to date: \$11,700

Pledged to date: \$15,200

EXPENSES

February 16-20, 2015

Music Ministry	\$600.00
Payroll (incl tax)	\$2,662.85
Payroll Service	\$46.45
Pension (employee)	\$366.47
Priest Pension	\$932.91
Supplies-Ministry	\$113.24

Total: \$4,183.92

Memorial Mass for Floyd Watson Saturday, March 14, 2015--Mass at 10 a.m.

Eulogy(ies) starting at 9:30. Potluck reception in Serra Hall immediately following the Mass. Please contact Ruthe (619-981-1424) or Penny (858-565-9629) if you are interested in bringing a dish.

FAMILY CATECHESIS

Continues on **March 8** 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 on Wednesday, **March 4**, in Serra Hall.

The class runs for four more consecutive Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Call (619) 886-1057 for information.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED

IC invites parishioners to serve as a Reader or Extraordinary Minister of Communion. Mentoring and flexible schedules provided. Call pastor 295 4141 x 11

Best Lent Ever

Our parishioner Ellen Quigley found this site and recommended to me that I check it out and mention it to you. <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/> by Matthew Kelly may help you to make a difference in your Lenten observance this year as you pray, fast, and are merciful, confessing sins and reforming your life.

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 for more dates)**

11 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, 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

March

02	I.C. Seniors Luncheon	11:00 a.m.
03	Gentle Stretch Class	5:00 p.m.
04	Bible Study, Serra Hall	9:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
	RCIA	7:00 p.m.
08	Parish Breakfast	9:30 a.m.
	Family Catechesis	9:45 a.m.
10	Gentle Stretch Class	5:00 p.m.
11	Bible Study, Serra Hall	9:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
	RCIA	7:00 p.m.
12	Centering Prayer	7:00 p.m.
13	Lenten Soup Supper	6:00 p.m.
	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.
17	Gentle Stretch Class	5:00 p.m.
	Penance Service	7:00 p.m.
18	Bible Study, Serra Hall	9:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
	RCIA	7:00 p.m.
20	Lenten Soup Supper	6:00 p.m.
	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.
22	Building Fund Collection	
	Family Catechesis	9:45 a.m.
24	Gentle Stretch Class	5:00 p.m.
	Taize Prayer Service	7:00 p.m.
25	Bible Study, Serra Hall	9:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
	RCIA	7:00 p.m.
26	Centering Prayer	7:00 p.m.
27	Lenten Soup Supper	6:00 p.m.
	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.
31	Gentle Stretch Class	5:00 p.m.

April

01	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
	RCIA	7:00 p.m.
02	Holy Thursday (No 8 a.m. Mass)	
	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	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-March 12
Immaculate Conception—Serra Hall
7:00-8:30 pm

“There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.”
— Ernest Hemingway

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: LUMEN GENTIUM

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

5. The mystery of the holy Church is manifest in its very foundation. The Lord Jesus set it on its course by preaching the Good News, that is, the coming of the Kingdom of God, which, for centuries, had been promised in the Scriptures: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand". In the word, in the works, and in the presence of Christ, this kingdom was clearly open to the view of men. The Word of the Lord is compared to a seed which is sown in a field; those who hear the Word with faith and become part of the little flock of Christ, have received the Kingdom itself. Then, by its own power the seed sprouts and grows until harvest time. The Miracles of Jesus also confirm that the Kingdom has already arrived on earth: "If I cast out devils by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you". Before all things, however, the Kingdom is clearly visible in the very Person of Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man, who came "to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many."

When Jesus, who had suffered the death of the cross for mankind, had risen, He appeared as the one constituted as Lord, Christ and eternal Priest, and He poured out on His disciples the Spirit promised by the Father. From this source the Church, equipped with the gifts of its Founder and faithfully guarding His precepts of charity, humility and self-sacrifice, receives the mission to proclaim and to spread among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God and to be, on earth, the initial budding forth of that kingdom. While it slowly grows, the Church strains toward the completed Kingdom and, with all its strength, hopes and desires to be united in glory with its King.

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 for more information.

Schedule for Season of Lent and Holy Triduum

- Fridays during Lent:
 - Soup Suppers 6:00 p.m.
 - Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.
- Penance Service
 - Tuesday, March 17 7:00 p.m.
- Taize Prayer Service:
 - Tuesday, March 24 7:00 p.m.
- *Holy Thursday, April 2:
 - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 p.m.
- *Good Friday, April 3:
 - Friday of the Passion of the Lord 7:00 p.m.
- *Holy Saturday, April 4:
 - Easter Vigil 8:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m.
5:15 p.m.
- *No 8 a.m. Mass

**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

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 _____

EVANGELII GAUDIUM- Pope Francis

43. In her ongoing discernment, the Church can also come to see that certain customs not directly connected to the heart of the Gospel, even some which have deep historical roots, are no longer properly understood and appreciated. Some of these customs may be beautiful, but they no longer serve as means of communicating the Gospel. We should not be afraid to re-examine them. At the same time, the Church has rules or precepts which may have been quite effective in their time, but no longer have the same usefulness for directing and shaping people's lives. Saint Thomas Aquinas pointed out that the precepts which Christ and the apostles gave to the people of God "are very few". Citing Saint Augustine, he noted that the precepts subsequently enjoined by the Church should be insisted upon with moderation "so as not to burden the lives of the faithful" and make our religion a form of servitude, whereas "God's mercy has willed that we should be free". This warning, issued many centuries ago, is most timely today. It ought to be one of the criteria to be taken into account in considering a reform of the Church and her preaching which would enable it to reach everyone.

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

TEN REASONS WHY THE CHURCH SHOULD NOT ABANDON POLITICS

—Jerry Newcombe

Recent events have raised the issue, Should the pulpit always avoid politics? It depends on what we mean by "politics;" it demeans the pulpit to use it for partisan politics. But here are ten reasons why I don't think politics and religion should (or even can) be completely separate:

1) The Word of God has something to say about all of life, beyond just the spiritual.

My long-time pastor, Dr. D. James Kennedy, once noted that the Church of Jesus Christ has always been opposed to abortion—from the very beginning. It still is.

In the last generation, abortion has become a "political" issue. Does that mean, asked Dr. Kennedy, we should now ignore it in the pulpit? No, because the Bible is pro-life.

2) The Bible itself addresses the issue of governing in different texts.

There are biblical books dealing with political rulers—1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, Judges. In Genesis and in Daniel, we see godly men serving well in pagan courts, for the good of all. In Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2, we hear that God has established the civil magistrate, and we are to obey the government. In Exodus, we see Moses rebuking Pharaoh for mistreating the Hebrews.

3) The Scriptures also teach that on occasion, there may be a need for civil disobedience.

When the apostles were commanded to no longer preach the gospel, Peter said that we must obey God rather than man. If there is an either/or, then civil disobedience can be the right path. Many early Christians died for Christ rather than worship the emperor, clearly a false god.

4) Jesus said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Nature abhors a vacuum. Someone will be involved in politics. Why should we abandon our role as citizens? According to Jesus, we have a positive duty to render certain obligation to the state.

5) When the Church does not speak out, evil can fill that void.

Silence in the face of evil can signal assent. We hold up those Christians who went against Hitler and the Nazis as heroes—not the millions who acquiesced to them.

The December 23, 1940 TIME magazine article called, "Religion: German Martyrs," opens: "Not you, Herr Hitler, but God is my Führer. These defiant words of Pastor Martin Niemöller were echoed by millions of Germans. And Hitler raged: 'It is Niemöller or I.'"

6) The Church is called to be salt and light. Salt preserves and prevents decay.

Christians in society should help prevent corruption. As goes the pulpit, so goes the nation.

7) We pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

That doesn't mean we should try and force the kingdom of God by use of the sword. When "Christians" did that in times past, we are still apologizing for it, as in the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Salem Witchcraft trials. But it does mean that Christians can apply biblical principles to government that result in good for all of us. And to be sure, someone's morality is always being legislated. It is not a question of "if," but of "what" and of "whose."

8) Christians bless everybody when we properly apply our faith to politics.

Our Constitution was an outgrowth of the biblical concept of covenant. University of Houston Professor Dr. Donald S. Lutz, author of "The Origins of American Constitutionalism," said that Americans "invented modern Constitutionalism and bequeathed it to the world." And where did we get it? Says Lutz: "The American constitutional tradition derives in much of its form and content from the Judeo-Christian tradition as interpreted by the radical Protestant sects to which belonged so many of the original European settlers in British North America."

9) Politics may be the calling of some in the congregation.

Therefore, ministers should encourage political involvement that is motivated by the desire to serve.

When the Member of Parliament William Wilberforce was converted in the 1780s, he sought counsel from Rev. John Newton, an ex-slave-trader. Should he leave politics and pursue the ministry? Newton advised him to stay because maybe God could use him where he was.

Wilberforce's crusade to free the slaves in the British Empire took him 50 years and was a direct outgrowth of his faith in Christ. I shudder to think if one of today's "no politics" ministers had counseled the young reborn Wilberforce. We might still have legal slavery in the Western world.

10) Religion and morality are "indispensable supports to our political prosperity."

So said Washington in his Farewell Address. John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." This was in a day when about 99% of the Americans were professing Christians. And on it goes.

I remember when I once interviewed former Secretary of Education William Bennett, who said, "Does anybody really have a worry that the United States is becoming overly pious? That our young people have dedicated too much of their lives to prayer, that teenagers in this country are preoccupied with thoughts of eternity?" In short, our problem today is not too much Christian influence on society, but not enough.