

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 08, 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

09	8 AM	<i>St. Frances of Rome</i> †Janet Kierulf	RP
10	8 AM	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jill Scillo, SI	RE
11	8 AM	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> †Floyd Watson	RP
12	8 AM	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> †Vincent Marascio	RP
13	8 AM	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> †Paula Klause	RP
14	8 AM	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> †Laura Paperini Lotti	RP
	5:15 PM	†Jess Perl	RP
15	8:30 AM	Marietta Malasig, SI	RE
	10:00 AM	†Emilio & Paola Paperini	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RP
	5:15 PM	†Lola Mariano	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

09	Rev. Michael Ratajczak
10	Rev. Michael Ravenkamp
11	Rev. Joseph Reardon
12	Rev. Dickens Remy
13	Rev. Jovencio Ricafort
14	Rev. Pedro Rivera
15	Rev. Michael Robinson

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15; Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4; Lk 4:24-30
 Tuesday: Dn 3:25-43; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 18:21-35
 Wednesday: Dt 4:1-9; Ps 147:12-20; Mt 5:17-19
 Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-9; Lk 11:14-23
 Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6-17; Mk 12:28-34
 Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-21; Lk 18:9-14

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

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

Jesus, protect all who serve our country.

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

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

Jirair Khalatian, Mary Lynch, Bette June Marciel, Kianna Meade, Julia M. Ocampos, Ernie Proo, Joan Schmittten, Karina Sosa, Clyde Southern, Jr., Mariana S. Tadena, William Kennedy, Robert McMahon, David Diaz, Margie Gautier, Patrick Piggot, Rodney Serrano,	Concepción Garza, Richard Solís Moreno, Laura Marks, Alvin Weaver, William Bethel, Lillian Sinclair, Olga Hritz, Imelda Hoeckelmann, Angelina Olivarez, Alice Perry, Joseph Moreno, Louie Serrano, Gustavo Sosa, Floyd Watson Iola Torre Thomas Briggs
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PLANTING AND NURTURING GRACE

FROM THE PASTOR

Biologically human beings receive life from their parents. Sometimes that life is damaged by genetics, disease, or behaviors from the parents. The children are not completely healthy, but need healing and care for the rest of their lives.

Spiritually because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, we their children are deathly ill from the moment of birth. Our souls have the creative spirit of God in the conscience, but also the spiritual death from the original sin. The spiritual iniquities of pride, ire, greed, envy, sloth, gluttony and lust have no immunity or remedy in the soul.

When a person is born with a defect, sometimes a transplant will provide a healing prolonging life. This transplant requires a life long relationship of the patient with the doctor, the medications, diet, exercise, avoidance of contagious elements. This healing allows the person to live as long as he continues the regimen necessary for the health of the transplanted organ.

In baptism, human beings receive a transplant of grace in the presence of the Spirit of Jesus Christ in the soul and of the Holy Spirit making the body His temple. (1Cor 6) This is the beginning of salvation for us. The Latin word "salus", from which comes our English word "salvation", means health.

Just as in the biological world bodily health is not a permanent state without the ministrations of doctors, medicine, diet, exercise, and avoidance of contagion, neither is spiritual health always a permanent state for the soul. Spiritual health requires a personal relationship with Jesus the Divine Physician to hear His advice and counsel in prayer and bible study. It requires the medicine of frequent penance. It requires the diet of Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist, an infusion of grace to augment the transplant of the presence of Jesus and grace received in baptism. It requires the exercises of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to build the health of the soul. It requires avoidance of sin so that the health of the transplant continue to bring life to the soul.

A soul thus transplanted with grace and kept healthy will attain eternal life and permanent health when the Divine Physician Jesus comes at the end of time.

Some Christians confess the need of only speaking of Jesus with their lips for life long

spiritual health. Others claim that the health, salvation, once received cannot be lost.

Jesus, however, teaches us differently. He speaks of being born again from water and the Holy Spirit from above (John 3:5). Paul teaches the same in his letter to Titus of the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit. Paul teaches the same in the Acts of the Apostles. Paul tells the Philippians to work out salvation (the new spiritual health) in fear and trembling.

After baptism, Jesus gives us himself as the diet for the soul to maintain the new health he has put there in baptism. In John 6:53-58, he teaches us Jesus said to them, *"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."*

He gives us the medicine of Penance through the church when he tell his apostles in John 20, *"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."* He cautions and empowers us to avoid contagion once cleansed as with the woman caught in adultery, John 8:11 *"Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more."*

Jesus clearly gives us our exercises in the works of mercy of Matthew 25:31 to the end as necessary for spiritual health, salvation. He cautions against ignoring spiritual exercise in Matthew 7:22, *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven,* but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."*

Spiritual health has been restored in baptism by the transplant of grace with the presence of Jesus in the soul and the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Church with Scripture and Tradition, prayer, the sacramental life all provide ongoing healing, diet, exercise for eternal life. Instead of hunger and thirst for the world, we now hunger and thirst for Jesus who plants in us a well spring of living water, bursting forth from our salvation, our spiritual health.

For this living water, "Stay thirsty, my friend."

AROUND THE PARISH

Gifts of Treasure

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

March 01, 2015

Total Collection: \$4,768.94

Parishioners: \$3050.00 Visitors: \$1718.94

Total contributing households: 80

5:15 Sat	\$761.00
8:30 Sun	\$881.00
10:00 Sun	\$1149.74
11:30 Sun	\$1105.35
5:15 Sun	\$ 711.85
Mailed	\$ 160.00

Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal: \$27,000

Paid to date: \$17,347.50

Pledged to date: \$23,707.50

EXPENSES

February 23-27, 2015

Diocesan Tax	\$4,269.14
Health Ins (staff)	\$ 7.76
Music Ministry	\$1110.00
Priest Health	\$1378.13
Workers Comp.	\$ 128.42

Total: \$6893.45

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.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be made to The Elizabeth Hospice or The Fraternity House, Escondido.

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

TAIZE SERVICE

You are invited to join us for a Taize service on **Tuesday, March 24**, at 7pm in the church, followed by refreshments in Serra Hall.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Join Father Richard for an introduction to the Bible on Wednesday, **March 11**, in Serra Hall. 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

We have a new bishop

Pope Francis has named Robert Walter McElroy who has been serving as auxiliary bishop of San Francisco as the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego. The bishop is 61 years old. He has served several bishops in administration and was pastor of St. Gregory Parish in San Mateo before becoming a bishop.

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

**May 04 Class
May 10 Baptisms
(see ic-sandiego.org for more dates)**

09 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

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

April

01	Choir Practice RCIA	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
02	Holy Thursday (No 8 a.m. Mass) Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00 p.m.
03	Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ	12:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm
04	Easter Vigil	8:00 pm
05	Easter Sunday: Regular Mass Schedule	

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

"If I accept you as you are, I will make you worse; however if treat you as though you are what you are capable or becoming, I help you become that," - *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. German, dramatist and author (1749-1832).*

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: LUMEN GENTIUM

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

6. In the old Testament the revelation of the Kingdom is often conveyed by means of metaphors. In the same way the inner nature of the Church is now made known to us in different images taken either from tending sheep or cultivating the land, from building or even from family life and betrothals, the images receive preparatory shaping in the books of the Prophets.

The Church is a sheepfold whose one and indispensable door is Christ. It is a flock of which God Himself foretold He would be the shepherd, and whose sheep, although ruled by human shepherds; are nevertheless continuously led and nourished by Christ Himself, the Good Shepherd and the Prince of the shepherds,(28) who gave His life for the sheep.

The Church is a piece of land to be cultivated, the tillage of God. On that land the ancient olive tree grows whose holy roots were the Prophets and in which the reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles has been brought about and will be brought about. That land, like a choice vineyard, has been planted by the heavenly Husbandman. The true vine is Christ who gives life and the power to bear abundant fruit to the branches, that is, to us, who through the Church remain in Christ without whom we can do nothing.

Often the Church has also been called the building of God. The Lord Himself compared Himself to the stone which the builders rejected, but which was made into the cornerstone. On this foundation the Church is built by the apostles, and from it the Church receives durability and consolidation. This edifice has many names to describe it: the house of God in which dwells His family; the household of God in the Spirit; (38) the dwelling place of God among men; and, especially, the holy temple. This Temple, symbolized in places of worship built out of stone, is praised by the Holy Fathers and, not without reason, is compared in the liturgy to the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. As living stones we here on earth are built into it. John contemplates this holy city coming down from heaven at the renewal of the world as a bride made ready and adorned for her husband.

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.

Tuesday March 17 7:00 p.m.
 PENANCE SERVICE
 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

**BENEDICTUS--A ministry to Catholic Men
 Fathers and Sons
 Saturday, March 21, 2015
 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Mass at 8 a.m.)
 Church of the Resurrection, Escondido
 For information contact Bob Thompson at
 bobbytom1@aol.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

44. Moreover, pastors and the lay faithful who accompany their brothers and sisters in faith or on a journey of openness to God must always re-member what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches quite clearly: "Imputability and responsibility for an action can be diminished or even nullified by ignorance, inadvertence, duress, fear, habit, inordinate attachments, and other psycho- logical or social factors". Consequently, with- out detracting from the evangelical ideal, they need to accompany with mercy and patience the eventual stages of personal growth as these progressively occur. I want to remind priests that the confessional must not be a torture chamber but rather an encounter with the Lord's mercy which spurs us on to do our best. A small step, in the midst of great human limitations, can be more pleasing to God than a life which appears outwardly in order but moves through the day without confronting great difficulties. Everyone needs to be touched by the comfort and attraction of God's saving love, which is mysteriously at work in each person, above and beyond their faults and failings.

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

BECAUSE SAN DIEGO IS WAITING AND BECAUSE YOU ASK ...

How Bishops Are Appointed Introduction

The ultimate decision in appointing bishops rests with the pope, and he is free to select anyone he chooses. But how does he know whom to select?

The process for selecting candidates for the episcopacy normally begins at the diocesan level and works its way through a series of consultations until it reaches Rome. It is a process bound by strict confidentiality and involves a number of important players – the most influential being the apostolic nuncio, the Congregation for Bishops, and the pope. It can be a time consuming process, often taking eight months or more to complete. While there are distinctions between the first appointment of a priest as a bishop and a bishop's later transfer to another diocese or his promotion to archbishop, the basic outlines of the process remain the same.

KEY TERMS

Apostolic nuncio

The pope's representative to both the government and to the hierarchy of a given nation; a key person in deciding what names are recommended to the Congregation for Bishops for possible episcopal appointment.

Auxiliary Bishop

A bishop appointed to assist a diocesan bishop. Whether in a diocese or archdiocese, his title is bishop.

Coadjutor

A bishop appointed to a Catholic diocese or archdiocese to assist the diocesan bishop. Unlike an auxiliary bishop, he has the right of succession, meaning that he automatically becomes the new bishop when the diocesan bishop retires or dies. By canon law, he is also vicar general of the diocese. If the diocese is an archdiocese, he is called coadjutor archbishop instead of coadjutor bishop. In recent years, a growing number of U.S. bishops in larger dioceses or archdioceses have requested and received a coadjutor in their final year or two before their retirement, in order to familiarize their successor with the workings of the (arch)diocese before he has to take over the reins. This minimizes the learning curve of a new bishop and eliminates completely the possibility of the diocese being vacant following the old bishop's retirement.

Congregation for Bishops

A department of the Roman Curia, headed by a Cardinal. The head of the Congregation, called the "prefect," is presently Cardinal Marc Ouellet, a Canadian. Among the congregation's responsibilities are moderating all aspects of episcopal appointments; assisting bishops in the correct exercise of their pastoral functions; handling *ad limina* visits (regular visits to Rome by bishops every five years); and establishing episcopal conferences and reviewing their decrees as required by canon law. Its membership consists of approximately 35 cardinals and archbishops from around the world.

Diocesan Bishop

Pastoral and legal head and representative of a diocese.

Province

A territory comprising one archdiocese, called the metropolitan see, and one or more dioceses, called suffragan sees. The Code of Canon Law spells out certain limited obligations and authority that the metropolitan archbishop has with respect to the dioceses within his province. The United States is divided into 33 ecclesiastical provinces.

Terna

A list of three candidates for a vacant office, including the office of bishop.

Stage 1: Bishops' Recommendations

Every bishop may submit to the archbishop of his province the names of priests he thinks would make good bishops. Prior to the regular province meeting (usually annually), the archbishop distributes to all the bishops of the province the names and *curricula vitae* of priests which have been submitted to him. Following a discussion among the bishops at the province meeting, a vote is taken on which names to recommend. The number of names on this provincial list may vary. The vote tally, together with the minutes of the meeting, is then forwarded by the archbishop to

the apostolic nuncio in Washington. The list is also submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Stage 2: The Apostolic Nuncio

By overseeing the final list of names forwarded to Rome, the apostolic nuncio plays a decisive role in the selection process. He not only gathers facts and information about potential candidates, but also interprets that information for the Congregation. Great weight is given to the nuncio's recommendations, but it is important to remember that his "gatekeeper" role, however, does not mean that his recommendations are always followed.

For Diocesan Bishops

After receiving the list of candidates forwarded by a province, the apostolic nuncio conducts his own investigation into the suitability of the candidates.

A report is requested from the current bishop or the administrator of a diocese on the conditions and needs of the diocese. If the appointment is a replacement for a diocesan bishop or archbishop about to retire, consideration will be given to the incumbent's recommendations. Broad consultation within the diocese is encouraged with regard to the needs of the diocese, but not the names of candidates.

The report is to include the names of individuals in the diocese with whom the Nuncio might consult and how to contact them.

Previous bishops of the diocese are consulted.

Bishops of the province are consulted

The president and vice president of the USCCB are consulted.

If the vacancy to be filled is an archdiocese, other archbishops in the United States may be consulted.

At this point, the nuncio narrows his list and a questionnaire is sent to 20 or 30 people who know each of the candidates for their input.

All material is collected and reviewed by the nuncio, and a report (approximately 20 pages) is prepared. Three candidates are listed alphabetically – the *terna* – with the nuncio's preference noted. All materials are then forwarded to the Congregation for Bishops in Rome.

For Auxiliary Bishops

A diocesan bishop must justify to the apostolic nuncio his need for an auxiliary bishop. This is easier if he is requesting a replacement for a retired or deceased auxiliary.

The diocesan bishop prepares the *terna*, or list of three candidates, for his requested auxiliary and forwards it to the apostolic nuncio.

The nuncio then conducts his own investigation of the priests on the diocesan bishop's *terna*, sending the names to Rome with a report and his own recommendations.

On average, this part of the process may take two to six months.

Stage 3: Congregation for Bishops

Once all the documentation from the nuncio is complete and in order, and the prefect approves, the process moves forward. If the appointment involves a bishop who is being promoted or transferred, the matter may be handled by the prefect and the staff. If, however, the appointment is of a priest to the episcopacy, the full congregation is ordinarily involved.

A cardinal relator is chosen to summarize the documentation and make a report to the full congregation, which generally meets twice a month on Thursdays. After hearing the cardinal relator's report, the congregation discusses the appointment and then votes. The Congregation may follow the recommendation of the nuncio, choose another of the candidates on the *terna*, or even ask that another *terna* be prepared.

Stage 4: The Pope Decides

At a private audience with the pope, usually on a Saturday, the prefect of the Congregation for Bishops presents the recommendations of the Congregation to the Holy Father. A few days later, the pope informs the Congregation of his decision. The Congregation then notifies the nuncio, who in turn contacts the candidate and asks if he will accept. If the answer is "yes," the Vatican is notified and a date is set for the announcement.

It often takes six to eight months—and sometimes longer—from the time a diocese becomes vacant until a new bishop is appointed, <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/appointing-bishops.cfm>