

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 22, 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; 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

23	8 a.m.	<i>St. Turibius of Mogrovejo</i> †Dolores Gonsalves	RP
24	8 a.m.	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> Sherie Kainz-Ibarra, SI	RE
25	8 a.m.	<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i> Terry Pender, SI	RP
26	8 a.m.	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> †Tom Briggs	RP
27	8 a.m.	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> †Stephen Sullivan	RP
28	8 a.m.	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> † Woody Aldridge	RP
29	5:15 p.m.	†Jose Finete	RP
	8:30 a.m.	†Ignacia Andrade	RP
	10:00 a.m.	†Carlos Mendez Vargas	RE
	11:30 a.m.	†William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 p.m.	†Elina Lopez	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


23	Rev. Louis Salca
24	Very Rev. Gary Sanders, OSA
25	Rev. Stephen Sanguinetti, MC
26	Rev. Anthony Saroki
27	Rev. James Schorr
28	Rev. David Sereno
29	Rev. Vincent Serpa, OP

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Dn 13:1-62; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-21; Jn 8:21-30
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday: Gn 17:3-9p Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
 Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
 Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Jn 11:45-56

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, Denise Cooney Alicia Ambrose
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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.

Bette June Marciel, Kianna Meade, Julia M. Ocampos, Ernie Proo, Joan Schmittin, 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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COUNTERING CONFUSION OF CATHOLICS

Dear Dennis, [Herrera. (SF Examiner)]

As your fellow Catholics, we pray that you will join Archbishop Cordileone in rejecting the immoral lifestyles so popular today. With the grace given by frequent reception of the sacraments, including Confession and Holy Communion, Our Lord will strengthen you to uphold eternal truth and to lead others to it. None of us can do it alone, but with God's help in the sacraments, and with the help and example of likeminded family and friends, we can be strong and conform our lives to His will.

FROM THE PASTOR

In opening yourself to grace through repentance and reconciliation, in choosing Christ and his Church over a culture of death and the lies of secular humanism and relativism, your courage will have an everlasting impact on your son, your family, and your community. Please let us know your decision quickly so that we may continue to pray for your new life, and support your decision. We are undeniably dismayed by many of your statements in your recent National Catholic Reporter editorial. We also deplore your attack on Abp. Cordileone, your Catholic archbishop and spiritual father.

You describe you and your wife as "raised Catholic" and "beneficiaries of Catholic educations." Unfortunately, you display a profound lack of true Catholic sensibilities and education in many of your remarks. This may not be your fault, as the Church has suffered from the "diabolical disorientation" spoken of by Fatima seer Sister Lucia, including poor catechesis, for many decades. You may not have been properly taught the faith.

If so, we would like to take this opportunity to provide some remedial catechesis.

To begin, homosexual activity is still an "act of grave depravity" (i.e., mortal sin) according to the Catechism and perennial Church moral doctrine. Therefore, as a Catholic, you were wrong to invalidate state marriage laws in 2004. Your duty as a Catholic was and is to uphold Church teaching on the exclusivity, sexual complementarity, and indissolubility of marriage as the union of one man and one woman, not to use your high political office to work against it.

As a Catholic, you should have no problem with Abp. Cordileone's proposed "morality clauses." What, precisely, is so "chilling" about his directive that Catholic teachers "conform their hearts, minds and consciences, as well as their public and private behavior" to tenets of church teaching that include "chastity" and "abstinence from all sexual intimacy outside of marriage" and that they refrain from "gravely evil" acts like "masturbation, fornication, the viewing of pornography and homosexual relations"?

Yes, the Church still believes all those old-fashioned things about sexual morality, even if many people today do not. We submit that Abp. Cordileone's directives are only "chilling" to those who don't truly believe and live the

Catholic faith and who are dedicated to the false god of progressive liberalism.

And why the shock over Abp. Cordileone's additional requirements that faculty "affirm and believe" church teaching on "the sinfulness of contraception"; that they accept that "the fundamental demands of justice require that the civil law preserve the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman"; and that medical procedures that assist in reproduction are "gravely immoral" for betraying spouses' "right to become a father and a mother only through each other"?

Again, these requirements are only troubling to those who are poorly educated in the Faith, or who have purposely decided to oppose them.

You said: "Without a duty for me to respond professionally...I was liberated to contemplate the matter personally, and in many ways more meaningfully, as a Catholic and a parent."

Dennis, ask yourself: Why are people Catholic?

The answer is that Catholicism is true. Yet, you have spent your career as city attorney of San Francisco defending and promoting a lie—sodomy-based so-called "gay marriage"—and now you are promoting more lies by attacking Catholic moral teaching in schools as a parent.

You said: "As parents especially, we place a high priority on encouraging faithful Christian discipleship in our son, and we do everything we can to make sure he has the benefit of a well-formed Catholic conscience."

Your son will learn much more from his father's actions than from any teacher or schoolbook. A well-formed Catholic conscience includes the duty to uphold over two millennia of Church teaching against the current cultural tide of sexual anarchy—in short, to be counter-cultural. Is your son receiving such example and guidance from you?

You said: "But the controversy stirred up by the archbishop's needless insertion of personal morality dictates into faculty handbooks highlighted to me the mounting challenges today's Catholic parents face as we strive to make our church relevant in the lives our children will lead."

We agree that "needless insertion of personal morality" is certainly challenging for "cafeteria Catholics" who wish to pick and choose which facets of Church teaching they agree with. But being a true Catholic requires you to conform your whole heart and mind to that of the Church.

Further, it is not your job or ours to make our Church "relevant" to anyone, including children. The Church has withstood more than 2,000 years of heresy and assault, and will continue to withstand them, because she is the bride of Christ, her Founder.

We suggest you read Pope St. Pius X's encyclical Pascendi Dominici Gregis (On the Doctrines of the Modernists) and his Oath against Modernism to understand that the Church cannot conform to the "spirit of the age" in order to become more "relevant." Church teaching is relevant and applicable throughout all ages, in all places, and for all people, and does not need to be updated.

— continued on page 7 of this bulletin

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 15, 2015

Total Collection: \$5,161.27

Parishioners: \$2591.50 Visitors: \$2569.77
Total contributing households: 84

5:15 Sat	\$720.10
8:30 Sun	\$1266.75
10:00 Sun	\$1432.92
11:30 Sun	\$ 588.00
5:15 Sun	\$1058.50
Mailed	\$ 95.00

Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal: \$27,000

Paid to date: \$18,085.00
Pledged to date: \$28,165.00

EXPENSES

March 9-13, 2015

Copier lease	\$253.22
Insurance	\$367.22
Music Ministry	\$1210.00
Office Supplies	\$ 288.45
Pest Control	\$350.00
Postage	\$200.00
Telephone	\$ 222.11
Weekly Envelopes	\$195.34

Total Expenses: \$3,086.34

Annual Lenten Collection

\$772.74

SPECIAL RETREAT

God's Healing Love - April 13th, 14th and 15th Praise, worship and prayer with Fr. Greg Bramlage St. Therese of Carmel Parish

Questions: tcolombo@stocsd.org or 858 481-3232

BENEDICTUS--A ministry to Catholic Men

Saturday, March 21, 2015 8am to 11 am

Church of the Resurrection, Escondido

For information contact Bob Thompson at bobbytom1@aol.com.

WHY ARE THE STATUES COVERED?


Jesus is the glory of God the Father. All the saints exist only because of him, and they are a reflection of His glory in their own particular gifts.

The last two weeks of Lent are called Passiontide with the first Passion Sunday being the fifth Sunday of Lent and the second Passion Sunday being Palm Sunday.

During this time Catholics focus on the passion of the Lord which leads to His glory: his agony in the garden, disrespect by the high priest, condemnation by Pilate, way to the cross, crucifixion and burial.

To focus this thinking on Jesus' suffering, if the glory of Jesus is covered, so then are all those saints who reflect His glory.

After we celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum, and the Easter Vigil, we see Jesus in His glory once again, surrounded by all His saints who reflect His glory in their own unique ways given to them by God.



2015 Baptism Schedule

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Join Father Richard for an introduction to the Bible on Wednesday, **March 25**, in Serra Hall from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Call 619-886-1057 for information.

FAMILY CATECHESIS

Continues on **March 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

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.

0 SPACES LEFT FOR OUR MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN, FRANCE & PORTUGAL:

The Pilgrimage is FULL. We are accepting requests for the waiting list in case of cancellations. Info at parish office or on main page of IC's website: <http://www.ic-sandiego.org>. '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.

AROUND THE PARISH

Parish Calendar

March

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 followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 9 p.m. Parish Office and Serra Gifts Closed	12:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
04	Easter Vigil	8:00 pm
05	Easter Sunday: Regular Mass Schedule Serra Gifts closed	
06	Easter Monday: Parish Office & Serra Gifts closed No I.C. Seniors Luncheon	
07	Gentle Stretch Class Pastoral Council (members only)	5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
08	Choir Practice RCIA	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
12	Parish Registration Sunday Parish Pancake Breakfast	9:30 a.m.
13	I.C. Seniors Luncheon Meeting	11:00 a.m.
14	Gentle Stretch Class	5:00 p.m.
15	Choir Practice RCIA	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
19	COLFS Baby Bottle Drive Family Catechesis	9:45 a.m.

Centering Prayer

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

Thursday Evening-March 26
Immaculate Conception—Serra Hall
7:00-8:30 pm

“For if, as Paul says, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, and if the man who does not know Scripture does not know the power and wisdom of God, then ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” *St. Jerome*

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: LUMEN GENTIUM

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

... 7 From Him "the whole body, supplied and built up by joints and ligaments, attains a growth that is of God". He continually distributes in His body, that is, in the Church, gifts of ministries in which, by His own power, we serve each other unto salvation so that, carrying out the truth in love, we might through all things grow unto Him who is our Head.

In order that we might be unceasingly renewed in Him, He has shared with us His Spirit who, existing as one and the same being in the Head and in the members, gives life to, unifies and moves through the whole body. This He does in such a way that His work could be compared by the holy Fathers with the function which the principle of life, that is, the soul, fulfills in the human body.

Christ loves the Church as His bride, having become the model of a man loving his wife as his body; the Church, indeed, is subject to its Head. "Because in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily", He fills the Church, which is His body and His fullness, with His divine gifts so that it may expand and reach all the fullness of God.

8 Christ, the one Mediator, established and continually sustains here on earth His holy Church, the community of faith, hope and charity, as an entity with visible delineation through which He communicated truth and grace to all. But, the society structured with hierarchical organs and the Mystical Body of Christ, are not to be considered as two realities, nor are the visible assembly and the spiritual community, nor the earthly Church and the Church enriched with heavenly things; rather they form one complex reality which coalesces from a divine and a human element. For this reason, by no weak analogy, it is compared to the mystery of the incarnate Word. As the assumed nature inseparably united to Him, serves the divine Word as a living organ of salvation, so, in a similar way, does the visible social structure of the Church serve the Spirit of Christ, who vivifies it, in the building up of the body.

This is the one Church of Christ which in the Creed is professed as one, holy, catholic and apostolic, which our Savior, after His Resurrection, commissioned Peter to shepherd,(74) and him and the other apostles to extend and direct with authority, which He erected for all ages as "the pillar and mainstay of the truth".

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.

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

EVANGELII GAUDIUM- Pope Francis

47. The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open. One concrete sign of such openness is that our church doors should always be open, so that if someone, moved by the Spirit, comes there looking for God, he or she will not find a closed door. There are other doors that should not be closed either. Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community, nor should the doors of the sacraments be closed for simply any reason. This is especially true of the sacrament which is itself "the door": baptism. The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak. These convictions have pastoral consequences that we are called to consider with prudence and boldness. Frequently, we act as arbiters of grace rather than its facilitators. But the Church is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems.

SCHOOL OF THE MADELEINE

offers special programs in accelerated math and Spanish in grades 5-8. Applications for the 2015-2016 school year are now being accepted. Currently there are openings in **kindergarten through 7th grades**. For information, please call (619) 276-6545.

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

COURTYARD PROJECT STATUS

Dear Parishioners of Immaculate Conception,

As many of you know, the Parish Finance Council has determined that improvements to the courtyard of Immaculate Conception are important for several reasons: Respecting the historical nature of the Church, improving access to the Hall and the Church, improving drainage, removing the old planters where the Canary Palms once stood, improving the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and making a better outdoor gathering place for events. The new design includes a beautiful, artistically designed and landscaped Shrine with seating and kneeling, shaded seating areas, more level open space, irrigation and lighting. Some donor funds have been located for this purpose and in the last few months our design has developed, as shown on the boards in the Hall.

We are now very near to obtaining bids for the construction of the New Courtyard! As a part of the construction, there will be offered the opportunity for Parishioners and others who have been touched by Immaculate Conception, to participate financially in the construction, in two ways:

(1) purchase a commemorative paver in the concrete paver accent stripes for as little as \$200 (a 6" x 6" paver), \$800 (a 12" x 12" paver) or \$1600 (a limited number of corner 12" x 12" pavers); (2) sponsor a portion of the Courtyard, such as The Shrine, parts of The Shrine, landscaping and benches.

Any such sponsorship will include appropriate commemoration if you wish, and the level of such participation will be fairly negotiated with Father Richard and the Parish Finance Council.

If you wish to purchase pavers or participate in sponsorship, please contact Glen Rasmussen, Connie or Father Richard.

Glen McFadden Rasmussen

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The fact that, for your son and his contemporaries, “rejecting discrimination isn’t at odds with a well-formed Christian conscience—it’s the product of it” shows that your son and his contemporaries actually do discriminate against Catholic teaching.

You wrote: “So when church ideologues express disdain for contemporary society (as Cordileone often does) or bring disproportionate emphasis to the catechism’s most discriminatory and divisive elements (as Cordileone did last month), it risks losing a generation of Catholics quite unlike anything has before.”

Abp. Cordileone is doing what any good bishop is duty-bound to do: to teach, govern, and sanctify his flock. Your interpretation of his actions as an expression of “disdain for contemporary society” and characterization of his emphasis on perennial Church moral teaching as “the catechism’s most discriminatory and divisive elements” again shows your misunderstanding of Catholic doctrine.

The good archbishop is trying to lead a society run amok with moral relativism back to goodness, truth, and beauty. You should be applauding and supporting him, not mischaracterizing his actions in this way.

You wrote: “Catholic parents like my wife and me, who are doing the important field work of trying to instill Catholic values in our children, are grateful to Pope Francis for emphasizing our faith’s capacity to bring us together instead of divide us. But we could do without Cordileone’s efforts to seemingly teach the opposite.”

Cafeteria Catholics and most secular citizens who still have a conscience are very glad to hear the interpretation of Pope Francis’ teachings as related by the news media. However, Pope Francis has not changed perennial Church teaching.

Conscience is the seed of faith, the natural gift from God infused in every child. Free will, reason, and conscience are meant to lead us to Him, through our decision to love, serve, and obey Him. Ignoring the teaching of the Church in order to justify self is dangerous to our eternal life with God, and can lead to sin which separates us from both God and reason.

Using lies to deceive our children and lead them into sin is a most grievous and evil sin. Jesus said, “But he that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be drowned in the depth of the sea.” (St. Matthew 18:6)

Abp. Cordileone is not teaching our children—or the adults in their charge—the opposite of Pope Francis’ teachings. Abp. Cordileone is teaching them the truth even if “itching ears” prefer to believe lies.

Again, Dennis, as your fellow Catholics, we pray that you conform your heart and mind to the Church to which you profess to belong. The inexhaustible treasure of Church teaching, which leads us to true holiness and happiness, is yours—if you will only prayerfully assent to it and turn away from false secular liberalism.

Sincerely in Christ,

Ecclesia Militans of San Diego

The beauty of the truth of the Catholic faith in the love of Jesus is well presented here to upend the lies that have been fed to Catholics in the last 50 years. So many have learned these falsehoods from both secular and Catholic people. Without the Church’s refutation by our bishops to their priests and lay faithful, by priests and deacons in their homilies, by lay Catholics in catechesis and Catholic schools and colleges, by Catholics in the political, social, educational, and other societal arenae, the many are living or promoting the lie claiming they are right and the Church is wrong.

Each false proposition becomes the new truth to the poorly educated unless those responsible for truth clearly and consistently counter the falsehoods as Ecclesia Militans has done so well here.

To my fellow Catholics, please, Never be ashamed of your testimony to the Lord nor deny Him before men, so that He will praise you before the heavenly Father.

—Fr. Richard Perozich, Pastor