

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

April 26, 2015

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor
pastor@ic-sandiego.org

Rev. Msgr. Robert Ecker, Weekend Associate

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris
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Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts
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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

27	8 AM	<i>Easter Weekday</i> †Nicholas Banfield	RP
28	8 AM	<i>St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort</i> †Paul Wilberman	RE
29	8 AM	<i>St. Catherine of Siena</i> Dick Irby, SI	RP
30	8 AM	<i>St. Pius V</i> Jeanne Pontius, SI	RP
01	8 AM	<i>St. Joseph the Worker</i> McMullin Family, SI	RP
02	8 AM	<i>St. Athanasius</i> †Angie Olivares	RE
03	5:15 PM	People of Immaculate Conception	RP
	8:30 AM	†Justino Rochin	RP
	10:00 AM	†Valentin & Luz Delgado	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 PM	†Alfredo & Antonia Rodriguez	RP

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

APRIL: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.

Evangelization: That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.

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

27	Rev. Michael Tran
28	Rev. Tung Tran
29	Rev. Matthias Tumulty, OFM
30	Rev. Edwin Tutor
01	Pope Francis
02	Bishop Robert McElroy
03	Bishop Robert Brom

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Pss 42:2-3, 43:3-4; Jn 10:1-10
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1-7; Jn 10:22-30
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5; Ps 67:2-8; Jn 12:44-50
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-27; Jn 13:13-16-20
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11; Jn 14:1-6
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

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, 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, Shirley Pearson, Diego Cárdenas.
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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. Morales, USN; LCPL Matthew A. Pena, Sgt. Richard Pierce, Sgt. William Paul Powers and Cinco, CPL Wilson Santiago; Alfred Tello, Ricky Thibeault, Tony Tullos, 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.

Kianna Meade, Julia M. Ocampos, Ernie Proo, Joan Schmittin, Karina Sosa, Clyde Southern, Jr., Mariana S. Tadena, William Kennedy, Robert McMahan, 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 Emilie Graham
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**THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS
OF CHRIST**

— *Saint Theodore the Studite*

FROM THE PASTOR

How precious the gift of the cross, how splendid to contemplate! In the cross there is no mingling of good and evil, as in the tree of paradise: it is wholly beautiful to behold and good to taste. The fruit of this tree is not death but life, not darkness but light. This tree does not cast us out of paradise, but opens the way for our return.

This was the tree on which Christ, like a king on a chariot, destroyed the devil, the Lord of death, and freed the human race from his tyranny. This was the tree upon which the Lord, like a brave warrior wounded in his hands, feet and side, healed the wounds of sin that the evil serpent had inflicted on our nature. A tree once caused our death, but now a tree brings life. Once deceived by a tree, we have now repelled the cunning serpent by a tree. What an astonishing transformation! That death should become life, that decay should become immortality, that shame should become glory! Well might the holy Apostle exclaim: Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world! The supreme wisdom that flowered on the cross has shown the folly of worldly wisdom's pride. The knowledge of all good, which is the fruit of the cross, has cut away the shoots of wickedness.

The wonders accomplished through this tree were foreshadowed clearly even by the mere types and figures that existed in the past. Meditate on these, if you are eager to learn. Was it not the wood of a tree that enabled Noah, at God's command, to escape the destruction of the flood together with his sons, his wife, his sons' wives and every kind of animal? And surely the rod of Moses prefigured the cross when it changed water into blood, swallowed up the false serpents of Pharaoh's magicians, divided the sea at one stroke and then restored the waters to their normal course, drowning the enemy and saving God's own people? Aaron's rod, which blossomed in one day in proof of his true priesthood, was another figure of the cross, and did not Abraham foreshadow the cross when he bound his son Isaac and placed him on the pile of wood?

By the cross death was slain and Adam was restored to life. The cross is the glory of all the apostles, the crown of the martyrs, the sanctification of the saints. By the cross we put on Christ and cast aside our former self. By the cross we, the sheep of Christ, have been gathered into one flock, destined for the sheepfolds of heaven.

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

— *Saint Gregory the Great, pope*

I am the good shepherd. I know my own – by which I mean, I love them – and my own know me. In plain words: those who love me are willing to follow me, for anyone who does not love the truth has not yet come to know it.

My dear brethren, you have heard the test we pastors have to undergo. Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for yourselves also. Ask yourselves whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action. John the evangelist is my authority for this statement. He tells us that anyone who claims to know God without keeping his commandments is a liar.

Consequently, the Lord immediately adds: As the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. Clearly he means that laying down his life for his sheep gives evidence of his knowledge of the Father and the Father's knowledge of him. In other words, by the love with which he dies for his sheep he shows how greatly he loves his Father.

Again he says: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them; they follow me, and I give them eternal life. Shortly before this he had declared: If anyone enters the sheepfold through me he shall be saved; he shall go freely in and out and shall find good pasture. He will enter into a life of faith; from faith he will go out to vision, from belief to contemplation, and will graze in the good pastures of everlasting life.

So our Lord's sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on the green pastures of eternity. These pastures are the spiritual joys of heaven. There the elect look upon the face of God with unclouded vision and feast at the banquet of life for ever more.

Beloved brothers, let us set out for these pastures where we shall keep joyful festival with so many of our fellow citizens. May the thought of their happiness urge us on! Let us stir up our hearts, rekindle our faith, and long eagerly for what heaven has in store for us. To love thus is to be already on our way. No matter what obstacles we encounter, we must not allow them to turn us aside from the joy of that heavenly feast. Anyone who is determined to reach his destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it. Nor must we allow the charm of success to seduce us, or we shall be like a foolish traveller who is so distracted by the pleasant meadows through which he is passing that he forgets where he is going.

AROUND THE PARISH

Gifts of Treasure

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

April 19, 2015

Total Collection: \$4,878.67
Envelopes: \$ 3132.50 Plate: \$1746.17
Total contributing households: 97

5:15 Sat	\$1045.56
8:30 Sun	\$ 958.00
10:00 Sun	\$1419.21
11:30 Sun	\$ 796.00
5:15 Sun	\$ 556.90
Mailed	\$133.00

Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal: \$27,000

Paid to date: \$24,817.50
 Pledged to date: \$37,022.50

EXPENSES

April 13-17, 2015

Copier	\$265.28
Music Ministry	\$ 400.00
Payroll (incl. tax)	\$3,403.00
Payroll Service	\$ 46.45
Pest Control	\$100.00
Postage	\$100.00
Telephone	\$232.15
Waste Disposal	\$ 369.59

Total: \$4,763.93

FAMILY CATECHESIS

Continues on **May 5** 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

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 _____

**Old Town Chamber of Commerce
 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
Road closures**

San Diego Avenue and adjacent cross streets will be closed on Saturday & Sunday, May 2 and 3. Parishioners may pick up parking passes in the hall after morning Masses or from ushers after 5:15 Masses.

2015 Baptism Schedule



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

**Quarters and Cans Sunday
 April 26, 2015**

During our second collection this 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.

Marriage Programs

Marriage Encounter: Renew your relationship. May 29-31, 2015. To register, call Mike or Anita at 619-445-0564 or apply online at wwme-sandiego.org

AROUND THE PARISH

Parish Calendar

April

- 26 Quarters & Cans Sunday
- 28 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 29 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
- RCIA 7:00 p.m.

May

- 02 Old Town Cinco de Mayo Festivities
- 03 Old Town Cinco de Mayo Festivities
- 04 I.C. Seniors Luncheon 11:00 a.m.
- 05 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 06 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 13 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
- 17 Parish Pancake Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
- Know Your Parish Sunday

Centering Prayer Group

The group is now meeting at St. Brigid parish until further notice. For information, contact Bernie Kleinke at 619-297-4437.

Patrick Coffin, national radio host, will be giving a talk, **“Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?”** at Our Lady of Grace Church in El Cajon, Wednesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. A very important topic for Catholics today. Get tickets online here: www.mkt.com/immaculata. Seating is limited. Bring a friend!

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: LUMEN GENTIUM

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

11. It is through the sacraments and the exercise of the virtues that the sacred nature and organic structure of the priestly community is brought into operation. Incorporated in the Church through baptism, the faithful are destined by the baptismal character for the worship of the Christian religion; reborn as sons of God they must confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church. They are more perfectly bound to the Church by the sacrament of Confirmation, and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ. Taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice, which is the fount and apex of the whole Christian life, they offer the Divine Victim to God, and offer themselves along with It. Thus both by reason of the offering and through Holy Communion all take part in this liturgical service, not indeed, all in the same way but each in that way which is proper to himself. Strengthened in Holy Communion by the Body of Christ, they then manifest in a concrete way that unity of the people of God which is suitably signified and wondrously brought about by this most august sacrament.

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 or Fr. Richard. *Glen McFadden Rasmussen*

PARISH & COMMUNITY

HELP FATHER CHOOSE A HYMN BOOK

As part of balancing our budget at IC, the finance council has addressed with the pastor the need to eliminate whatever recurring expenses that we can.

Liturgy is a large ministry here, offering the Holy Mass daily and on weekends for our parishioners and visitors. Music is among the highest expenses. Some parishioners have expressed to me that musicians should be volunteers. The reality is that they need to live just as we all do. Our musicians actually have compromised to receive less than surrounding parishes because of their love of God and loyalty to the parish.

The parts of music expense that we can eliminate are the disposable hymnals and worship aids, allowing people to hear the word of God instead of read it, and to acquire a permanent hymnal rather than buy new disposable ones each year. This is a considerable expense for us at IC who are struggling to break even each week in our small but very dedicated parish.

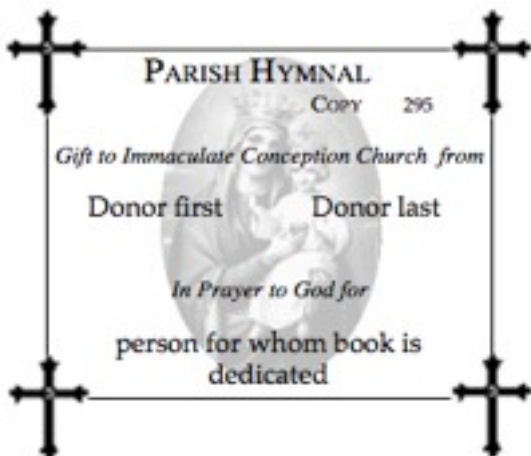
If someone needs to read the readings of the Mass, a personal subscription to Magnificat or Living with Christ would be a good substitute to the parish's paying for the missalettes. A committee has reviewed several hymnals and their songs.

To help the pastor to choose a permanent hymnal, I am asking every registered parishioner who wishes to have input please to email or postal mail to me a list of 10 favorite hymns you would like to see in a permanent hymnal, and to include your name and your envelope number.

As pastor I will make a data base to add your input to that of the committee to help me to make a decision.

Once a hymnal is selected, the parish will offer the opportunity to you do donate one or more hymnals in prayer for or in memory of a loved one with a dedication placed inside the front cover.

My email address for your 10 selections, name and envelope # is: pastor@ic-sandiego.org.



EVANGELII GAUDIUM- Pope Francis

54. In this context, some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system. Meanwhile, the excluded are still waiting. To sustain a lifestyle which excludes others, or to sustain enthusiasm for that selfish ideal, a globalization of indifference has developed. Almost without being aware of it, we end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own. The culture of prosperity deadens us; we are thrilled if the market offers us some- thing new to purchase. In the meantime all those lives stunted for lack of opportunity seem a mere spectacle; they fail to move us.

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>

THE CHURCH CAN'T OFFER A 'DILUTED' FAITH: POPE FRANCIS' DOCTRINE CHIEF

—ROME, April 10, 2015 (*LifeSiteNews.com*)

On March 24, the German regional newspaper Rheinische Post published an interview with Gerhard Ludwig Cardinal Müller, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In it, Cardinal Müller made some important statements about several issues to be found in the so-called "Liberal Agenda," including celibacy, the loosening of the moral teaching of the Church and the admittance of remarried Catholics to the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist.

When asked whether Pope Francis will introduce such proposed liberalizing changes into the Church within the next years, Cardinal Müller replied: "Francis wants that people in difficult situations are not left alone, but, rather, are accompanied and integrated into their parishes, without any distancing from the teaching of the Church. A simple 'Yes' to the above-mentioned themes of the [liberal] agenda cannot be the answer of the Church to the challenges of secularization."

Cardinal Müller thereby clearly distances himself from these attempts to liberalize the Church's attitude and teaching on these moral matters. On the contrary, he challenges each Catholic to follow Christ's Teaching and to meet the challenge and to trust that He will help him.

He said: "The challenge is that each man finds in Jesus the center and the foundation of his life. Each man has to know that in life and in the life thereafter he must put his trust in the Incarnate Son of God. That is our agenda, and not a cheap Christendom, a Christendom for a lower price. We are not permitted to offer to the people the Faith in a diluted way."

When the journalist noted that these are strict and challenging words, Cardinal Müller replied: "If someone has doubts about Eternal Life, to that person the Church cannot simply say: 'It does not matter after all, the main thing is that you sometimes do something good.' Or, when people are Catholic, but do not attend Holy Mass, we cannot say: 'One can be a good Christian without [going to] Mass.' No, both belong to one another. Who in his heart believes and confesses with his mouth, he will be saved, says the Apostle St. Paul. We cannot simply give into the 'secular Zeitgeist.'"

Cardinal Müller clearly rejects herewith any notion of moral relativism, but reminds the secular world, as well as Catholics, that one has to follow Christ and act accordingly in order to be saved. An encouraging and strong statement that is direly needed in a time of confusion and disorder within the Church and in the world.

When questioned about the celibacy of priests, the cardinal pointed to the Church's long tradition and to the example of Jesus Christ. "[Celibacy] is based on a long tradition. There exists a special closeness between the priesthood and this form of life. Jesus also lived in celibacy. I do not see any essential reasons why the Church should distance herself from this tradition," he said.

Cardinal Müller also stresses in this interview the importance of maintaining the unity in the Church in the

face of a growing conflict between the two streams of thought within the Church concerning the question of a liberalization or relaxation of the Church's morals, and he refers to the vow of each bishop "to be loyal to the Catholic Magisterium under the leadership of the Pope as the successor of Peter."

Cardinal Müller also pointed out that he is very concerned about the cruel and inhuman treatment and killings of Christians in the Near East and the lack of indignation and active concern in the West about these deliberate atrocities. He said that the warnings about a possible attack against the Vatican should be taken seriously. "One has to take [this threat] seriously. I am even more worried about the expulsion of the Christians from the Near East and the killing of Christians all over the world. Who ever violates the commandment of God 'Thou shalt not kill,' is acting in a perverse and inhuman manner. ... I do not know where this lack of sensitivity concerning the violence against Christians comes from."

Upon further reflection, Cardinal Müller might well have drawn a link between the same secular, liberal forces within society that put pressure on the Catholic Church to change her own moral teaching and, at the same time, ignore the cruelties committed against Christians in other places of the world, out of their general disdain or scorn for Christianity.

In another interview at the end of March with the Italian News Agency ANSA, Cardinal Müller made some strong comments about the importance of keeping Mercy and Truth united. "The Holy Year [of Mercy] shall serve to remind the people that mercy cannot exist without the truth," he said. Also to those people whose lives have been troubled in broken marriages the truth has to be brought, rather than new pastoral approaches. He reminds us that God loves us "in intervening into our history with his grace." With this grace, we are then called to reform ourselves "so that we receive a larger heart and truly change our lives. That is why we have to remind ourselves, during this Holy Year, that we cannot speak of mercy without including truth."

Cardinal Müller insisted upon the truth of God as distinct from the way we human beings sometimes look upon our lives in our own families. "It is important to accept everybody, certainly, also the sinners, because we are all sinners, but we have to follow the commandments of God, and not mere human reasoning. Human beings sometimes look at things in a way which is a little bit different from the way of God."

He added: "The mercy of God takes us as we are, but it leaves us not in that same state in which it has found us."

Through his grace God wants to lead us to salvation, and thus he leads us to reform our lives, he said. "We cannot pronounce the Resurrection without the Cross. There is not second or third way." These comments clearly stand within the context of the Synod of Bishops and of the proposal made by some to allow remarried couples to receive Holy Communion.