

The Catholic Church of the  
**Immaculate Conception**

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**May 24, 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**  
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**Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts**  
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**Connie Rodriguez, Parish Secretary**  
[parish@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:parish@ic-sandiego.org)

**Parish Office Hours**

Monday: Noon to 4:00 pm  
Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Mass Schedule

**Daily Mass:** Monday - Saturday at 8:00 am  
**First Friday Mass & Devotion:** 8:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 P.M.  
Sunday Morning: 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 A.M.  
Sunday Evening: 5:15 P.M.

**Holy Day Masses:** 8 A.M., 7:00 P.M.

**Penance:** For daily Mass goes 7:30 AM, For Parish on Saturday: 4:30 to 5:00 P.M., and by appointment

**Baptisms & RCIA:** *By appointment only.* Please email Deacon Fitzmorris at [rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org](mailto:rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org).

**Weddings:** By appointment only. Arrangements must be made at least **one year** in advance. Please contact the office

**Funerals:** *For arrangements, please call the parish office.*



**History of Immaculate Conception Parish**

It was here in Old Town that Father Junipero Serra celebrated his First Holy Mass in California on July 2, 1769, near the site of the present Immaculate Conception Church, and it was on the hill overlooking Old Town that he planted the cross which marked the site of the Mission and the Presidio.

In 1849, the first parish church was established in Old Town with the name of Immaculate Conception and was dedicated in 1858. It still stands and is known as the Old Adobe Chapel on Conde Street. The cornerstone to the present Immaculate Conception Church was laid in 1868 under the direction of Father Antonio Ubach. With the population swing toward the south, it was not until July 6, 1919, that the church was dedicated by Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles.

## WE PRAY

### MASS INTENTIONS

25	8 AM	<i>St. Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi</i> †Tristan Nguyen	JB
26	8 AM	<i>St. Philip Neri</i> †Jim Donohue	RE
27	8 AM	<i>St. Augustine of Canterbury</i> Ebbitt Family, SI	RP
28	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Carlynn Davis	RP
29	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Rey & Rosario Amaro	RP
30	8 AM	<i>Weekday; BVM</i> †Jerry Mulherin	RP
31	5:15 PM	†Joseph Gonsalves	RP
	8:30 AM	Rita & Salvador Tarango, SI	RP
	10:00 AM	People of Immaculate Conception	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 PM	†Jojo Pascual	RP

### APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

#### May: Intentions of the Holy Father

**Universal:** That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbors who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

**Evangelization:** That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.

### 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


25	Rev. Alexander Aquino
26	Rev. John Auther, SJ
27	Rev. Ben Awongo, AJ
28	Rev. Ben Bachmeier
29	Rev. James Bahash
30	Rev. Jay Bananal
31	Rev. Karl Bauer

### PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Sir 17:20-24; Ps 32:1-7; Mk 10:17-21  
 Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-23; Mk 10:28-31  
 Wednesday: Sir 36:1-17; Ps 79:8-13; Mk 10:32-45  
 Thursday: Sir 42:15-25; Ps 33:2-9; Mk 10:46-52  
 Friday: Sir 44:1-13; Ps 149:1-9; Mk 11:11-26  
 Saturday: Sir 51:12-20; Ps 19:8-11; Mk 11:27-33

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

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, Frances Garcia, Michael Blase Ambuul, Socorro Pacheco, Linda Lee, Joan Busalacchi, Amparo Valenzuela, Robby Witt, Phyllis Altomare, Denise Cooney, Alicja Ambrose, Shirley Pearson, Diego Cárdenas. Inez Cerda Bull Joanne Mangiamelli Rose McBrien
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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 SENDING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

—St. Irenaeus

When the Lord told his disciples *to go and teach all nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*, he conferred on them the power of giving men new life in God. He had promised through the prophets that in these last days he would pour out his Spirit on his servants and handmaids, and that they would prophesy. So when the Son of God became the Son of Man, the Spirit also descended upon him, becoming accustomed in this way to dwelling with the human race, to living in men and to inhabiting God's creation. The Spirit accomplished the Father's will in men who had grown old in sin, and gave them new life in Christ.

#### FROM THE PASTOR

Luke says that the Spirit came down on the disciples at Pentecost, after the Lord's ascension, with power to open the gates of life to all nations and to make known to them the new covenant. So it was that men of every language joined in singing one song of praise to God, and scattered tribes, restored to unity by the Spirit, were offered to the Father as the first fruits of all the nations.

This was why the Lord had promised to send the Advocate: he was to prepare us as an offering to God.

Like dry flour, which cannot become one lump of dough, one loaf of bread, without moisture, we who are many could not become one in Christ Jesus without the water that comes down from heaven. And like parched ground, which yields no harvest unless it receives moisture, we who were once like a waterless tree could never have lived and borne fruit without this abundant rainfall from above. Through the baptism that liberates us from change and decay we have become one in body; through the Spirit we have become one in soul.

*The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of God* came down upon the Lord, and the Lord in turn gave this Spirit to his Church, sending the Advocate from heaven into all the world into which, according to his own words, the devil too had been cast down like lightning.

If we are not to be scorched and made unfruitful, we need the dew of God. Since we have our accuser, we need an Advocate as well. And so the Lord in his pity for man, who had fallen into the hands of brigands, having himself bound up his wounds and left for his care two coins bearing the royal image, entrusted him to the Holy Spirit.

Now, through the Spirit, the image and inscription of the Father and the Son have been given to us, and it is our duty to use the coin committed to our charge and make it yield a rich profit for the Lord.

### THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

—St. Basil the Great

The titles given to the Holy Spirit must surely stir the soul of anyone who hears them, and make him realize that they speak of nothing less than the supreme Being. Is he not called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, the steadfast Spirit, the guiding Spirit? But his principal and most personal title is the Holy Spirit.

To the Spirit all creatures turn in their need for sanctification; all living things seek him according to their ability. His breath empowers each to achieve its own natural end.

The Spirit is the source of holiness, a spiritual light, and he offers his own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know him by his goodness. The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe, but he gives himself only to those who are worthy, acting in each according to the measure of his faith.

Simple in himself, the Spirit is manifold in his mighty works. The whole of his being is present to each individual; the whole of his being is present everywhere. Though shared in by many, he remains unchanged; his self giving is no loss to himself. Like the sunshine, which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for him alone, so the Spirit pours forth his grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet is present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive him. To all creatures that share in him he gives a delight limited only by their own nature, not by his ability to give.

The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak, and brings to perfection those who are making progress. He enlightens those who have been cleansed from every stain of sin and makes them spiritual by communion with himself.

As clear, transparent substances become very bright when sunlight falls on them and shine with a new radiance, so also souls in whom the Spirit, become spiritual themselves and a source of grace for others.

From the Spirit comes foreknowledge of the future, understanding of the mysteries of faith, insight into the hidden meaning of Scripture, and other special gifts. Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we enter into eternal happiness, and abide in God. Through the Spirit we acquire a likeness to God; indeed, we attain what is beyond our most sublime aspirations – we become God.

**AROUND THE PARISH**

**Gifts of Treasure**

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

**May 17, 2015**

**Total Collection: \$5,258.47**  
**Envelopes: \$3093.00 Plate: \$2165.47**  
**Total contributing households: 102**

5:15 Sat	\$ 493.37
8:30 Sun	\$1007.11
10:00 Sun	\$1602.10
11:30 Sun	\$ 754.39
5:15 Sun	\$1236.50
Mailed	\$ 165.00

**EXPENSES**

May 11-15, 2015

Diocesan loan	\$863.06
Internet	\$65.00
Music Ministry	\$ 300.00
Payroll (incl. taxes)	\$3,403.00
Payroll Service	\$46.45
Priest Pension	\$932.91
Property Insurance	\$965.34
Worker's Comp	\$123.17

**Total: \$6,698.93**



**2015 Baptism Schedule**

**June 01 Class**  
**June 07 Baptisms**  
 (see [ic-sandiego.org](http://ic-sandiego.org) for more dates)



In observance of **Memorial Day**, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, May 25**. Serra Gifts will remain open for the holiday.

**THE TOMORROW PROJECT**

The Tomorrow Project, a job readiness program of Catholic Charities, provides intensive, individualized training for homeless and low-income women. Our gourmet food products have been exclusively developed by award winning San Diego chefs and will be for sale after the Masses on Sunday, May 31st . Stop by and meet our participants. Donations are always welcome. For more information, go to our website [www.tomorrowproject.org](http://www.tomorrowproject.org).

**Pray the Rosary in May**



**Rachel's Women's Center**

The drop-in day center for homeless and very low-income women is supported by I.C. volunteers who serve lunch at the center every Tuesday. Volunteers donate about two hours each week. New volunteers are welcome...drivers are needed. If you are interested or if you have questions, please contact Penny Sampo at [msampo1@san.rr.com](mailto:msampo1@san.rr.com). Please indicate Rachel's House in the subject line.

**Vespers of Pentecost**

On Sunday, May 24, at 3 p.m., the Brothers of the Little Oratory will sing Vespers of Pentecost in Gregorian chant. All are welcome.

**COURTYARD UPDATE**

Our Parish Finance Council is moving forward with the Courtyard Project! The project is now out to bid, all the design drawings and specifications are completed and we expect to have a contractor chosen within the next month! Then, depending on scheduling, we will break ground on the new courtyard! We hope to have it completed, barring unforeseen delays, by mid-summer.

You can view the Presentation Board in the Hall, or you can view the presentation board concepts on the parish website at [www.ic-sandiego.org](http://www.ic-sandiego.org), under "Ministries; Parish Finance Council." Also on the website are sample donor tiles and if you would like to have a tile, please contact Glen Rasmussen at [glen@glenras.com](mailto:glen@glenras.com), or (858) 456-9751.

**AROUND THE PARISH**

**Parish Calendar**

**May**

- 24 Building Fund Collection
- 25 Memorial Day Observed  
Parish Office closed
- 26 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 27 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
- 31 Rock 'n Roll Marathon 5:30 a.m.  
The Tomorrow Project Sale 8:30 a.m.

**June**

- 01 I.C. Seniors Luncheon 11:00 a.m.
- 02 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.  
Pastoral Council (closed meeting) 6:00 p.m.
- 03 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
- 09 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 10 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Vespers 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Traditional Latin Mass 10:00 a.m.
- 14 Parish Registration Sunday  
Parish Pancake Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
- 16 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 17 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
- 21 Quarters and Cans Sunday
- 23 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.
- 24 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
- 28 Missionary Coop Plan Sunday
- 30 Gentle Stretch Class 5:00 p.m.

**July**

- 01 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m.
- 03 Independence Day Holiday Observed  
Parish Office Closed

**A PRAYER TO THE SPIRIT**

Holy Spirit,  
who sent Christ Jesus  
to carry the Good news to the poor,  
we pray to you:  
Help us to continue your work  
by serving the poor, our brothers and sisters.

—From *Come, Lord Jesus* by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p.181

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: LUMEN GENTIUM**

**THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH**

13. All men are called to belong to the new people of God. Wherefore this people, while remaining one and only one, is to be spread throughout the whole world and must exist in all ages, so that the decree of God's will may be fulfilled. In the beginning God made human nature one and decreed that all His children, scattered as they were, would finally be gathered together as one. ( It was for this purpose that God sent His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, that he might be teacher, king and priest of all, the head of the new and universal people of the sons of God. For this too God sent the Spirit of His Son as Lord and Life-giver. He it is who brings together the whole Church and each and every one of those who believe, and who is the well-spring of their unity in the teaching of the apostles and in fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

It follows that though there are many nations there is but one people of God, which takes its citizens from every race, making them citizens of a kingdom which is of a heavenly rather than of an earthly nature. All the faithful, scattered though they be throughout the world, are in communion with each other in the Holy Spirit, and so, he who dwells in Rome knows that the people of India are his members". Since the kingdom of Christ is not of this world the Church or people of God in establishing that kingdom takes nothing away from the temporal welfare of any people. On the contrary it fosters and takes to itself, insofar as they are good, the ability, riches and customs in which the genius of each people expresses itself. Taking them to itself it purifies, strengthens, elevates and ennobles them. The Church in this is mindful that she must bring together the nations for that king to whom they were given as an inheritance, (and to whose city they bring gifts and offerings. This characteristic of universality which adorns the people of God is a gift from the Lord Himself. By reason of it, the Catholic Church strives constantly and with due effect to bring all humanity and all its possessions back to its source in Christ, with Him as its head and united in His Spirit.

**PARISH & COMMUNITY**



Saint Charles Borromeo Academy provides excellent academics in a Catholic culture, preschool through 8th grade.

**Rock ‘n Roll Marathon  
Coming Sunday, May 31**

Alternate Access Notice was included in the bulletin of May 17. Copies are available in the vestibule and in the Serra Hall bulletin board. Road closures should impact access to parking for 8:30 a.m. Mass only.

**Depression Confession**

You are invited to a free presentation focusing on teen depression: How it’s diagnosed, how it’s treated, and what you can do about it.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church  
13541 Stoney Creek Rd., San Diego  
Sunday, May 31 -- 6:30 p.m.  
For information, call 858-484-1070.

**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*

60. Today’s economic mechanisms promote inordinate consumption, yet it is evident that unbridled consumerism combined with inequality proves doubly damaging to the social fabric. Inequality eventually engenders a violence which recourse to arms cannot and never will be able to resolve. It serves only to offer false hopes to those clamoring for heightened security, even though nowadays we know that weapons and violence, rather than providing solutions, create new and more serious conflicts. Some simply content themselves with blaming the poor and the poorer countries themselves for their troubles; indulging in unwarranted generalizations, they claim that the solution is an “education” that would tranquilize them, making them tame and harmless. All this becomes even more exasperating for the marginalized in the light of the widespread and deeply rooted corruption found in many countries – in their governments, businesses and institutions – whatever the political ideology of their leaders.

**Serra Gifts. . .**

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Saturday 10:00 to 4:00  
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**NOW is the time to shop for graduation and summer wedding gifts.**

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>

**JUNIPERO SERRA AND GOD'S TENDER MERCY***Encountering the founding father of the California missions.**—By Kathryn Jean Lopez — May 1, 2015*

Vatican City — Junipero Serra, founding father of the California missions, preferred the “taste and see approach” to sharing the good news of the Gospel, in which he found his hope and his identity.

Robert M. Senkewicz, professor of history at Santa Clara University, is filling in the background at a press conference here in Rome sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in advance of a visit by Pope Francis to the North American Pontifical College to celebrate Serra. It will be Francis's first visit to the seminary since he became pope.

When Pope Francis comes to the United States in September, he is expected to talk about the coming canonization of Junipero Serra — who was beatified by Pope John Paul II — at a Mass on the campus of the Catholic University of America (my alma mater). Serra will be the first Hispanic saint (born in Spain) from the United States of America, celebrated by the first pope from the Americas.

“What a difference there is between a temperament that is harsh, stern, and severe and a disposition that is mild, loving, sweet, and gentle. The harsh temperament rides roughshod over everything, causes trouble everywhere, and usually ruins everything. The mild disposition, on the other hand, arranges everything peacefully, softens everything, and attracts everyone with its tenderness.”

That could be lesson from or a description of Pope Francis and his invitational approach. What it is is a sermon by Serra, translated for the first time into English by Rose Marie Beebe, Senkewicz's wife and a professor of Spanish literature at Santa Clara, in their book *Junipero Serra: California, Indians, and the Transformation of a Missionary*. The sermon, based on the Psalms and the life of Christ, gets into the offer of a first encounter that leaves one wanting more.

“The magnanimity of our Lord and God consists in the boundless extent of this benevolent condition,” Serra explains. “He is complete mercy, complete love, and complete tenderness toward men, even toward the most ungrateful sinners.”

Serra, despite his radical commitment to Christ as a Franciscan missionary priest, would consider himself among the unworthy sinners — much as Pope Francis frequently says of himself.

“The Lord wishes all people to attain to the ends for which He compassionately created us,” Serra continues. “He yearns that we might believe that He is the way, the truth, and the life and that we might advance toward the salvation He wills for us.” What is that will? Serra cites Timothy 2:4: *He wills everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth*. “For that reason,” Serra continues, “He extends the golden bonds of His goodwill and love to entice us and unite us to himself.”

What a contrast this message is to some of the ways religion appears in the news these days! Jean-Clément Jeanbart, the Melkite archbishop of Aleppo, Syria, was in New York this past week pleading for the West to end its relative ignorance and inaction concerning the persecution of Christians in his home. The “taste and see” approach of Christianity is quite the contrast to radical Islamic extremism, seen most dramatically, albeit not exclusively, under the

demonic banner of the Islamic State. In a speech at New York University, Archbishop Jeanbart said, “As Christian leaders in Syria are appealing for reconciliation and peace and openness, radical Muslim factions are calling for jihad and exclusion, a kind of apartheid for all non-Muslims.”

Rather than apartheid or coercion, Serra's missionary message was one of welcome. Still, his canonization — to which Pope Francis himself gave high priority — has proven controversial. A *Los Angeles Times* editorial recently advocated the removal of Serra's statue from Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol building — the very hall Pope Francis may well walk through on his way to speak to Congress. What an insulting welcome that would be for such a refreshing moral leader, denying what should be a healing and uniting apostolic visit for Americans to celebrate together.

Only about a third of California's native population lived at the missions, Monsignor Francis J. Weber, the archivist emeritus of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, explains, and most of the hostility to Serra comes from “descendants of the non-Christianized natives.” Serra has been accused of forcing conversions. But Weber — along with the congregation in Rome that investigates cases for sainthood — says that there is no record of such a thing, and “to have done so would have violated the whole notion of free will” that lies at the heart of Christianity.

The Spaniards who came in the mid 18th century to what would later become the United States were attempting to be a leaven rather than another authoritarian hand, even in the midst of violence around them. The evidence suggests some success, in no small part because of Serra.

Rubén G. Mendoza, a founding professor at California State University at Monterey Bay, says that for a long time he believed the “myths” about Serra, but decades of work in the archives and archeology of early California and Mexico have led him, he tells me, to “contend that the

California Indian fared far better under the mentoring and tutelage of the friars and the mission system than they did under any other system of governance in vogue in the late 18th through the 20th century.”

The pope's visit to the United States in September will be an opportunity to celebrate a hero at a time when we are so in need of heroes, Monsignor Weber emphasizes. And Serra is indeed an immigrant missionary American hero. “Do not think, Christian, that the statement about the Lord being sweet and gentle is true of Him only in His glory with the blessed ones,” Serra preached. “It refers to the Lord in everything, with everyone, and at all times.” What a contrast to the beheadings and the dangerous propaganda — some of it quite effective — from ISIS. What a model of fatherhood, of true tolerance, treating all with respect. Serra, like Saint Peter and so many other Christian heroes, was not perfect, but men rarely are.

Contemporaries affirmed that Serra was a saintly man, an apostle of Jesus Christ who lived his life in radical commitment to the Gospel, a commitment that brought him to leave his family and his home in Spain and give his life to God in service to those whose lives might be better with his help. We need such people in our midst today. We need Serra's example in contrast to the violence we see today. Don't let ideology cloud the celebration of this gift, the life of Junipero Serra.