

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

August 16, 2015

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor

[pastor@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:parish@ic-sandiego.org) 619-295-4141 x 11

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris

rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org; 858 490-8332

Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts

fielder@ic-sandiego.org 619-297-3426

Connie Rodriguez, Parish Secretary

parish@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 10

Marsha Long, Music

music@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 18

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: 8:30 AM, 10:00AM, 11:30 AM. 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

17	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> Chris DiEdoardo, SI	RP
18	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> Josie Hipolito, SI	RE
19	8 AM	<i>St. John Eudes</i> Cordell Hipolito & Family, SI	RP
20	8 AM	<i>St. Bernard</i> †Dale Pearson	RP
21	8 AM	<i>St. Pius X</i> In thanksgiving to St. Anthony	RP
22	8 AM	<i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> In thanksgiving to Blessed Fr. Serra	RP
23	5:15PM	Priest's Intentions	RP
	8:30 AM	†Sr. Helen Manning Lorch, RSCJ	RE
	10:00 AM	†Rev. Alphonsus Moloney	RP
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RP
	5:15 PM	People of Immaculate Conception	RP

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

August: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That volunteers may give themselves generously to the service of the needy.

Evangelization: That setting aside our very selves we may learn to be neighbors to those who find themselves on the margins of human life and society.

PRAY: SEMINARIANS IN THEOLOGY

4th	David Exner North American College Rome,
4th	Brian Frice Mt. Angel Seminary OR
2nd	Oscar Lopez, Mt. Angel Seminary OR
3rd	Nathan McWeeney Mt. Angel Seminary OR
2nd	Eric Tamayo North American College Rome
4th	Corey Tufford North American College Rome,
4th	Derek Twilliger Mt. Angel Seminary OR
3rd	Billy Zondler, Mt. Angel Seminary, OR

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

17	Rev. Msgr. John Dickie
18	Rev. Msgr. Daniel Dillabough
19	Rev. William Dillard
20	Rev. Minh Do
21	Rev. John Dolan
22	Rev. Msgr. Neal Dolan
23	Rev. Laurence Dolan, OFM

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-44; Mt 19:16-22
 Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24; Ps 85:9-14; Mt 19:23-30
 Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-7; Mt 20:1-16
 Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39; Ps 40:5-10; Mt 22:1-14
 Friday: Ru 1:1-22; Ps 146:5-10; Mt 22:34-40
 Saturday: Ru 2:1-17; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 23:1-12

PRAY FOR HEALING

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, 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,		Socorro Pacheco, Linda Lee, Amparo Valenzuela, Robby Witt, Phyllis Altomare, Denise Cooney, Alicia Ambrose, Shirley Pearson, Diego Cárdenas. Inez Cerda Bull Joanne Mangiameli Rose McBrien Cosmo Busalacchi Maria Casanova, Steve Stone, Laura Castillo, Edna Moore, Maria Esperanza Kramer Joan Busalacchi Georgiana Ottenheimer Mark Brandon Jeanne Pontius
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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. SCPO Desiree S. Hayes, USN
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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.

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, Angela Cordova, Ramiro Moreno, Alexander Toczko Jeannette Toczko José Teofilo Solorio Ray Jackson Betty Jackson
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THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

FROM THE PASTOR

For Roman Catholic Christians, the belief in the Assumption of Mary flows immediately from the belief in her Immaculate Conception. Catholic Christians believe that if Mary was preserved from sin by the free gift of God, she would not be bound to experience the consequences of sin—death—in the same way we do. Mary's assumption shows the result of this freedom from sin—the immediate union of her whole being with her Son Jesus Christ with God at the end of her life.

Catholic Christians believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the end of her earthly life, was assumed both body and soul into heavenly glory.

- Rom 5:12

Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned ...

- Rom 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- 1 Cor 15:21-26

For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Since sin and death are the fruits of Satan, the freedom of Mary from the original sin of Adam also frees her from the consequences of sin also. Then Mary best fulfills the scripture of Genesis.

- Gen 3:15

I will put enmity between you (the serpent, Satan) and the woman (Mary), and between your offspring (the minions of Satan) and hers (Christ); He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.

The constant faith (paradosis) of the Church affirms the belief in the Assumption of Mary.

- From the 5th Century:

The Feast of the Assumption of Mary was celebrated in Syria.

- 5th and 6th Century:

The Apocryphal Books were testimony of a certain christian sense of the abhorrence felt that the body of the Mother of God should lie in a sepulcher.

- 6th Century:

The Feast of the Assumption was celebrated in Jerusalem (and perhaps even in Alexandria).

- From the 7th Century:

Clear and explicit testimony was given on the Assumption of Mary in the Eastern Church; The same testimony is clear also in the Western Church (Gregory, Tours, 538-594).

- 9th Century:

The Feast of the Assumption was celebrated in Spain.

- From the 10th - 12th Century:

No dispute whatsoever in the Western Church; there was dispute over the false epistles of Jerome on the subject.

- 12th Century:

The Feast of the Assumption was celebrated in the city of Rome, and in France.

- 13th Century to the present:

Certain and undisputed faith in the Assumption of Mary in the universal Church.

1950

Pope Pius XII, declared infallibly, ex cathedra: "Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." (The Magisterium has stayed conspicuously silent regarding whether this process entailed Mary's physical death. The teaching merely states that Mary's body and soul were assumed at the completion of the course of Mary's life.)

There are, however, a few implicit references in the bible to the assumption. Both Enoch and Elijah are assumed into heaven (Heb. 11: 5; 2 Kings 2:11). We see bodies of "saints" raised after Jesus death:

...tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many (Mat 27: 52-53). St. Paul tells us "...if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him"(Romans 8:17). We all are promised this if we "suffer" for Christ. By taking Mary, body and soul, he granted her this gift sooner, rather than later, in a unique way.

The book of Revelation reads:

"Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple" (Rev. 11:19). "And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;...she brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron" (Rev. 12: 1,5).

St. Robert Bellarmine says, "Who could believe that the ark of holiness, the dwelling of God, the temple of the Holy Spirit, crumbled into dust? I shudder at the very thought that the virginal flesh of which God was conceived and born, which nourished him and carried him should have turned to ashes or been given as food to worms."

It is time to move toward logic, truth, and history. The idea of resurrecting the body is a big part of Catholic "End Time" theology. This is not exclusive to Catholicism. Many of the more "historical" protestant churches pray the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed. "...I believe in...the resurrection of the body and life everlasting" or We believe...the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting" (or similar verbage).

What is this saying? We will all be resurrected; to join our body and souls in perfect union for eternity. We, of course, will spend that eternity in heaven or hell. Most Protestants agree in one way or another that we will be in heaven in some form. Why, then, is it so difficult to believe that Mary, chosen from all eternity to bare the Baby Jesus, to endure unimaginable sorrow, is was not given a "perfect ticket" to heaven. Martin Luther believed in the assumption 400 + years before Pope Pius XII proclaimed (1950 Munificentissimus Deus) it as doctrine. As stated earlier, there is no dispute that Enoch and Elijah were assumed into heaven, why then could Mary not have been assumed into heaven. Logic, coupled with history will tell us a story as well.

No one has claimed to have the body of Mary. People have the head of John the Baptist, the body of Saint Nicholas; why then has no one claimed the body of Mary? Could it be that she never really died...at least the way we normally define death. Wouldn't the body of Mary, or any relic thereof be a well sought after treasure?

As with many faith issues, we must remember the words of Christ, "whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it" (Luke 18: 17). Not everything is understood fully at an "intellectual level". When we surrender ourselves to the love of God and the wisdom of His church, we find the security and happiness of a child in the arms of his/her mother.

—Posted by ROCCO DE LEO

AROUND THE PARISH

AWESOME FABRIC ARTS GROUP

Group members represent all levels of quilting, sewing, crochet and knitting. We are always looking for new faces and ideas.

We are now concentrating on making Prayer Quilts for parishioners who are going through illness or life crisis. The group meets every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. in Serra Hall. To request a prayer quilt or for more information about the Awesome Fabric Arts Group, contact Penny at 858-565-9629.

Rite of Christian Initiation

Each year on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil, thousands of people are baptized into the Catholic Church in the United States. Parishes welcome these new Catholics through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

If you are interested in becoming a baptized member of the Church, consider participating in the RCIA process which will begin in September.

For information, please contact the parish office, parish@ic-sandiego.org.

SAVE THE DATE!!



**SANTA MARIA
BAR-B-QUE**

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is having a **Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, November 9 – 18, 2015.**

Daily Mass at the Holy Sights. Visit Jerusalem, Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem the Dead Sea and more! Includes 3 Meals Daily. Air from San Diego. \$3,749.

For a flyer of more info call Cathie or Mike Milano at 1-800-773-2660.

**CATHOLIC NIGHT
AT THE SAN DIEGO PADRES**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015
7:10 PM
PADRES VS. CARDINALS**

To purchase game tickets, go online to www.padres.com/catholicnight.

Wear a white jersey, t-shirts, jackets, etc., to show our unity.



2015 Baptism Schedule

**September 21 Class
September 27 Baptisms**

(See ic-sandiego.org for more dates.)

MASS READINGS

Beginning in Advent this November, the missalettes will no longer be in the pews because their cost is too high for our small parish. It is possible that we may print the Sunday readings in the bulletin.

The preferred mode of reception of the Word is to listen to it proclaimed.

Check with Liz Fielder in the Serra Gift Shop to see what she has available for you to purchase locally.

Two other alternatives would be a mail subscription either to Magnificat or Living with Christ which you could bring to Holy Mass in your purse (women only) or pocket.

A 1 year subscription to Magnificat is \$44.95 including both the paper and digital edition for subscribers. <http://bookstore.magnificat.net/abonnement/index> is the website.

Postal address and contacts:

Magnificat
PO Box 822
Yonkers, NY 10702
USA
Email: magnificat@magnificat.com
Phone: 1-866-273-5215

Living With Christ is \$23.99/year
livingwithchrist@sfsdayton.com
1 (800) 214-3386
Living with Christ
PO Box 293040
Dayton, OH 45429

FAMILY CATECHESIS

Parents and children as well as all interested adults are welcome to attend Family Catechesis in the bride's room of the parish hall every other week beginning September 13 at 9:45, right after the 8:30 AM Mass. All children must be accompanied by their parents at each session.

Magnificat Prayer Breakfast

All women are invited to hear EWTN show host, Barbara McGuigan share her story and speak on living the virtuous life. Barbara is an internationally known speaker and author. She can also be heard on Ave Maria Radio's The Good Fight. Please join us on Sat. September 12 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm at the Mission Valley Sheraton. \$30 Kindly RSVP to (619) 701-2718 or SDMagnificat@gmail.com by September 9.

AROUND THE PARISH

Gifts of Treasure

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

August 09, 2015

Total Collection: \$6,312.69
Envelopes: \$4,348.00 Plate: \$1,964.69
Total contributing households: 108

5:15 Sat	\$ 991.45
8:30 Sun	\$1485.50
10:00 Sun	\$1548.49
11:30 Sun	\$874.75
5:15 Sun	\$ 1000.00
Mailed	\$ 412.50

EXPENSES
 August 3-August 7

Copier Lease	\$265.28
Music Ministry	\$600.00
Payroll (incl. taxes)	\$3168.66
Payroll Service	\$46.45
Pension	\$375.55
Supply Priest	\$600.00
Telephone	\$235.50

Total: \$5,291.44

NEW HYMNAL

So far parishioners have dedicated 108 of the 200 hymnals for loved ones, living and deceased. Donations for dedication are \$20/hymnal Your name may be printed as donor (or it can be left blank) and you may have the name of a person living, or add a † if deceased. Submit name and donation to rectory or put into collection basket.

St. Vincent de Paul Village Ladies Guild cordially invites you to attend our annual free **MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**.

Monday, September 14, 2015, 11:00AM
 Ladies Guild Room at St. Vincent de Paul Village
 1501 Imperial Avenue (free underground parking off 16th)
 Downtown San Diego

For information: Call Janet Salus at 858-483-7911 or
 jsbolts@san.rr.com

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: LUMEN GENTIUM

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

... 22. The supreme power in the universal Church, which this college enjoys, is exercised in a solemn way in an ecumenical council. A council is never ecumenical unless it is confirmed or at least accepted as such by the successor of Peter; and it is prerogative of the Roman Pontiff to convoke these councils, to preside over them and to confirm them.(This same collegiate power can be exercised together with the pope by the bishops living in all parts of the world, provided that the head of the college calls them to collegiate action, or at least approves of or freely accepts the united action of the scattered bishops, so that it is thereby made a collegiate act.

23. This collegial union is apparent also in the mutual relations of the individual bishops with particular churches and with the universal Church. The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and of the faithful. The individual bishops, however, are the visible principle and foundation of unity in their particular churches, fashioned after the model of the universal Church, in and from which churches comes into being the one and only Catholic Church. For this reason the individual bishops represent each his own church, but all of them together and with the Pope represent the entire Church in the bond of peace, love and unity. The individual bishops, who are placed in charge of particular churches, exercise their pastoral government over the portion of the People of God committed to their care, and not over other churches nor over the universal Church. But each of them, as a member of the episcopal college and legitimate successor of the apostles, is obliged by Christ's institution and command to be solicitous for the whole Church, and this solicitude, though it is not exercised by an act of jurisdiction, contributes greatly to the advantage of the universal Church.

"Anyone, then, who desires to live chastely in Christ Jesus, must flee not only the mouse of lust, but even from its very scent."

- *Saint Anthony of Padua*

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 _____

PARISH & COMMUNITY

Parish Calendar

August

19	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
23	Quarters & Cans Sunday	
26	Choir Practice - Cancelled for today	5:30 p.m.

September

02	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
03	Meditation Harp Music	1:00 p.m.
07	Labor Day - Parish Office Closed Serra Gifts Open	
14	I. C. Seniors Luncheon	11:00 a.m.

FROM MISERICORDIAE VULTUS - Pope Francis

BULL OF INDICTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

*FRANCIS
BISHOP OF ROME SERVANT OF THE
SERVANTS OF GOD TO ALL WHO READ
THIS LETTER GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE*

... 3 The Holy Year will open on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. So he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love (cf. Eph 1:4), choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope.

**Quarters and Cans Sunday
August 23, 2015**

During our second collection next 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.

Serra Gifts... **Street Level of
Fr. Serra Hall
619-297-3426**



Open 7 days a week
Monday - Friday 9:30 -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.

New items arrive weekly.

Remember, your purchases help to support our parish.

See our online catalog at:
<http://www.ic-sandiego.org/gift-shop>

OVERCOMING PORNOGRAPHY

Meet the people who can help you quit your porn addiction.

Pornography

When I speak about pornography, I typically get a lot of questions from people who are relieved that the conspiracy of silence has finally been broken. Are there organizations that help break porn addictions? Are there people who can help me navigate my spouse's porn problem? Are there resources that can help us repair our marriage post-porn addiction? Are there good programs for keeping people accountable when they're surfing the Internet?

In a word: yes, there are. I'd like to introduce you to just a few of them—and encourage you to share this article far and wide so that your friends, family, and acquaintances can also make use of the wealth of resources that are out there. There is an anti-porn movement emerging, and it's growing fast.

1. Covenant Eyes

Covenant Eyes is an amazing organization, and an amazing accountability program that you can install on all of your devices—I have it installed on both my laptop and my cell phone. They also provide the most updated statistics on pornography, and try to break down info about the porn industry so that readers can understand what it's all about. Their e-books are second-to-none, and are free for download, with essential titles like *Porn-Free Church*, *Porn and Your Husband: A Recovery Guide for Wives*, *Hope After Porn*, *The Battle Plan*, *Coming Clean*, and many more. The Covenant Eyes website is a one-stop shop for accountability filters, essential information, and valuable support.

2. Fight The New Drug

Fight The New Drug is a trendy organization that has created a huge anti-porn movement through savvy marketing and incredible social media skills. Their Facebook page is close to reaching a million "likes," and pictures of thousands of young people of all walks of life wearing T-shirts featuring slogans like "Porn Kills Love" have done much to make opposing pornography mainstream. They keep a steady stream of blog posts written by "Fighters" from around the world who are committed to fighting the influence of pornography in their culture, and raise awareness about the impact of porn both online and on the streets.

3. Matt Fradd

Matt Fradd is a one-man porn-fighting machine, so I have to list his name all by itself. He has launched a number of projects specifically targeted at helping Catholic communities become porn-free. Integrity Restored, for example, is an enormously helpful online resource for spouses, parents, and the clergy. The Porn Effect is another online resource targeted at teens, featuring advice from experts, battle plans to kick porn out of your life, and tips for accountability and even counseling. To help with all of this, Matt Fradd helped develop a fantastic app that can be downloaded to your phone, called The Victory App, which helps you track your progress at beating pornography and staying away from it for good. This app is free—and already getting rave reviews. Matt's vision is to see porn get stigmatized the way so many other cultural plagues have been stigmatized—and knows we need all the help we can get. When someone mentioned that he must be in competition with *Fight The New Drug*, he laughed and said, "No, my competitor would be Playboy."

4. Strength To Fight

Strength To Fight is a Canadian anti-porn initiative that began only last year to fill the huge and increasingly noticeable void of anti-porn organizations in Canada working to connect people with the help and the resources that they need. Full disclosure: I am one of the team members at Strength To Fight, and we bring the truth about pornography and how to fight it to churches, youth groups, high schools, conferences, universities, and frankly anywhere where there are people who want to get free of porn and need the information and resources to do it. My colleague Josh Gilman has done a magnificent job of creating essential networks of counselors and other resources to ensure that Canadians across the country have access to everything they need to get free of pornography for good.

These are just four resources that Christians of all stripes can utilize to fight the influence and spread of pornography, both in their own lives and in the lives of their loved ones. Pornography has spread far and fast, but the good news is that the anti-porn movement is exploding too—thousands of people are standing up to defend love, beauty, innocence, and the fragile relationships being damaged by pornography.

The tools are out there. Arm yourself.

—*lifesitenews.com*