

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 30, 2015

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor

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

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris

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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

31	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> Cruz-Whitman Family, SI	MT
01	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Martin Morris	RE
02	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Mary Barnhorn	RE
03	8 AM	<i>St. Gregory the Great</i> †Joan Gallie	MT
04	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Graciela Esquivel	RE
05	8 AM	<i>Bt. Teresa of Calcutta; BVM</i> †Martin Morris	RP
	5:15 PM	†Sylvia Martinez	RP
06	8:30 AM	Cruz-Whitman Family, SI	RE
	10:00 AM	†Julie Marie Ocampo	RP
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RP
	5:15 PM	People of Immaculate Conception	RP

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

September: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people

Evanglization: That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.

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


31	Rev. Earl Eggleston
01	Pope Francis
02	Bishop Robert McElroy
03	Bishop Robert Brom
04	Bishop Gilbert Chavez
05	Rev. Gregory Eichman, FSSP
06	Rev. Charles Eis

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1-13; Lk 4:16-30
 Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-11; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44
 Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44
 Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11
 Friday: Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1-5; Lk 5:33-39
 Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-8; Lk 6:1-5

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 Cárdena. 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, Esther Salazar.
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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 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 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, Emilie Graham, Angela Cordova, Ramiro Moreno, Alexander Toczko Jeannette Toczko José Teofilo Solorio Ray Jackson Betty Jackson
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THE NEW AGE OF MARTYRDOM

IN THE 21ST CENTURY, CHRISTIANS ARE 'THE MOST PERSECUTED RELIGIOUS BODY ON THE PLANET'
BY PATRICK MOTT, EDITOR, ORANGE COUNTY CATHOLIC

FROM THE PASTOR

The image remains indelible: 21 men in bright orange jumpsuits kneeling on a lonely Mediterranean beach before a line of black-clad and masked Islamic State militants. Seconds later, the militants would draw their long knives and ritually behead each of the men—all of them Egyptian Christians. The 21 had been kidnapped by the extremist group while working in Libya, and the beheadings were captured on a video that was subsequently released on a pro-Islamic State website.

During a Mass offered for the Coptic Christian victims on Feb. 17, shortly after the beheadings, Pope Francis declared that the 21 had been murdered “for the sole reason of being Christians” and prayed “that the Lord welcome them as martyrs.”

As shocking as the killings were, the motivation for them was not atypical. Throughout the world, in the early years of the 21st century, Christians have suffered persecution and martyrdom at a rate and intensity that recalls the worst periods of the ancient Roman Empire.

Though the numbers rarely show up on popular radar in the West, the International Society for Human Rights reported that Christians are the targets of 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination in the world today. “Statistically speaking, that makes Christians by far the most persecuted religious body on the planet,” writes John J. Allen in *The Spectator*.

“According to the Pew Forum,” writes Allen, author of the book *The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Anti-Christian Persecution*, between 2006 and 2010 “Christians faced some form of discrimination, either de jure or de facto, in a staggering total of 139 nations, which is almost three-quarters of all the countries on earth.

According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, an average of 100,000 Christians have been killed in what the center calls a ‘situation of witness’ each year for the past decade. That works out to 11 Christians killed somewhere in the world every hour, seven days a week and 365 days a year, for reasons related to their faith.

“In effect, the world is witnessing the rise of an entire new generation of Christian martyrs. The carnage is occurring on such a vast scale that it represents not only the most dramatic Christian story of our time, but arguably the premier human rights challenge of this era as well.”

The modern-era anti-Christian bloodletting actually began in the 20th century, though incidents were, then as now, seldom generally acknowledged.

“The secular West has been looking the other way for a very long time,” writes Susan Brinkman in *The Catholic Standard and Times*. “Even the average church-going Christian is not likely to know that 45.5 million of the estimated 70 million Christians who have died for Christ did so in the last century. For this reason, scholars such as Robert Royal, president of the Faith and Reason Institute in Washington, D.C., and author of *The Catholic Martyrs of the Twentieth Century*, refer to the past century as one of the darkest periods of martyrdom since the birth of Christianity.”

The persecutions in the 20th century “were largely the result of political ideologies—alternative religions really—that could not tolerate any competition from competing faiths,” says Royal. “Communism, Nazism and Fascism all piled up huge

numbers of Christian dead. Because they think of religion as a political and not a spiritual force, of course they hate it when they see it.

“Since the beginning of the 21st century, however, the situation has changed. We’re developing our own anti-Christian ideologies in the West—persecution, but so far no real martyrs. Militant Islam seems to be doing the most, but tyrannical regimes in Africa exist that don’t like Christians who resist injustices... China does a fair job repressing Christians, who grow in numbers nonetheless, maybe because of the persecution. There are other fundamentalisms that have arisen in response to the bleak nature of the modern world: Hindu fundamentalism, for instance, has killed and tried to drive Christians away. It’s a nasty world.”

Not nasty enough, apparently, to generate any kind of consistent coverage in the West.

“Why are the dimensions of this global war so often overlooked?” Allen asks. “Aside from the root fact that the victims are largely non-white and poor, and thus not considered ‘newsmakers’ in the classic sense, and that they tend to live and die well off the radar screen of western attention, the global war also runs up against the outdated stereotype of Christianity as the oppressor rather than the oppressed.

“Say ‘religious persecution’ to most makers of cultured secular opinion, and they will think of the Crusades, the Inquisition, Bruno and Galileo, the Wars of Religion and the Salem witch trials. Today, however, we do not live on the pages of a Dan Brown potboiler, in which Christians are dispatching mad assassins to settle historical scores. Instead, they’re the ones fleeing assassins others have dispatched.” Still, like the martyrs of old, modern Christians have largely remained steadfast in the face of threats.

“Most Christians don’t go out of their way to conflict with authorities and with other faiths,” says Royal. “But to be a Christian in the troubled parts of the world often means to have made a deliberate choice to remain faithful to something beyond your immediate surroundings. It’s amazing how many people are willing to risk everything, including their lives, to remain faithful. Those Coptic Christians who were beheaded by ISIS in Libya were amazing to the very end, but aren’t as rare in the world as most people think.”

Pope Francis drew particular attention to the issue in a recent Easter season address in St. Peter’s Square. “These are our martyrs of today, and they are many,” he said. “We can say that there are more of them now than there were in the early centuries. I hope the international community does not look on, mute and inert, at such an unacceptable crime.” He called for “concrete participation and tangible help to defend and protect our brothers and sisters who are persecuted, exiled, killed, beheaded, solely because they are Christians.” Such pleas for the world—the West in particular—to open its eyes to the problem are growing.

“The persecution of the First Christian, Jesus, is a telling example for all of us,” says Royal. “The one thing we absolutely can’t do in the West is to be silent. I’ll never forget when I was writing my book on the 20th century martyrs, the cry of a Romanian bishop, perhaps the most heartfelt claim in all the literature I read. He said, ‘it’s not we in the Communist East who are the Church of Silence. We speak up and bear witness with our lives. It’s you in the West who have freedom of speech and action who do nothing, who are the Silent Church.’”

His cry finds a plaintive echo in the words of the Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal: “Does anybody hear our cry? How many atrocities must we endure before somebody, somewhere, comes to our aid?”

AROUND THE PARISH

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.

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. **The RCIA Process begins on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall.**

For information, please contact Fr. Richard at 619-295-4141, ext. 11, or email pastor@ic-sandiego.org.



SANTA MARIA BAR-B-QUE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

Tickets on sale beginning August 30, after all Sunday Masses or in the office during the week.

Menu: Santa Maria style BBQ, chicken, beans, cole slaw, rolls, dessert. Beer, Wine, and soft drinks for sale. Western attire optional.

**\$15 for adults
\$10 for children 10 and under.**

Get your tickets soon!

Prayer Chain

If you or someone you know, would like to be kept in prayer for any special need, contact the Prayer Chain Ministry: rutheis@cox.net or call 619-981-1424.

 **2015 Baptism Schedule**

**September 21 Class
September 27 Baptisms**

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

Culture of Life Family Services

6th ANNUAL PRO-LIFE IS GOOD GALA & AUCTION
Saturday, October 10
Rancho Bernardo Inn

Keynote Speaker: Lila Rose
President, Live Action

For more information, please contact James Stabile at Gala@colfs.org.

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.vr.com.

New Paths to Healing

- 1) A free 13-week support group for the separated and divorced will meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm from September 22 through December 15, 2015. The series includes a session on Surviving the Holidays and meets at the Ministry Center of Sacred Heart Parish, 655 C Avenue, Coronado 92118. For information, call Martha, 619.435.6136 or Tom, 619.437.6689.
- 2) A new support group starting Sunday September 13th for anyone suffering from the pain and loss associated with a separation or divorce. We meet Sundays at 10:15 AM at St. James Catholic Church – Ministry Center in Solana Beach. For more information contact Frank Grant at 760-533-1520 or fwgrant@gmail.com or Jan Nadler PhD at 760-814-8604.

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 23, 2015

Total Collection: \$5,685.23
Envelopes: \$3,510.00 Plate: \$2175.23
Total contributing households: 94

5:15 Sat	\$ 555.00
8:30 Sun	\$1369.00
10:00 Sun	\$1715.23
11:30 Sun	\$ 703.00
5:15 Sun	\$1080.00
Mailed	\$ 263.00

EXPENSES

August 17-21, 2015

Internet	\$125.00
Music Ministry	\$700.00
Office Supplies	\$129.89
Payroll (incl. taxes)	\$3168.68
Payroll Service	\$46.45
Pension	\$375.25
Sunday Envelopes	\$171.61
Worker's Comp	\$129.61

Total: \$4,846.49

Quarters & Cans: \$931.00

Labor Day - September 7

In observance of Labor Day, Monday, September 7, the Parish Office will be closed.

Serra Gifts will be open.

The **Church Ministers Conference** in the Diocese of San Diego (held on Saturday September 19, 2015 at Mater Dei Catholic High School) is looking for volunteers. If you are interested, plan to attend our information and training session on Saturday, August 22, from 9am to 11am at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Please RSVP by email: mmitre@diocese-sdiego.org or phone: 858-490-8260 by August 20th. Must be 18 years or older.

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: LUMEN GENTIUM

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

... 23. By divine Providence it has come about that various churches, established in various places by the apostles and their successors, have in the course of time coalesced into several groups, organically united, which, preserving the unity of faith and the unique divine constitution of the universal Church, enjoy their own discipline, their own liturgical usage, and their own theological and spiritual heritage. Some of these churches, notably the ancient patriarchal churches, as parent-stocks of the Faith, so to speak, have begotten others as daughter churches, with which they are connected down to our own time by a close bond of charity in their sacramental life and in their mutual respect for their rights and duties. This variety of local churches with one common aspiration is splendid evidence of the catholicity of the undivided Church. In like manner the Episcopal bodies of today are in a position to render a manifold and fruitful assistance, so that this collegiate feeling may be put into practical application.

24. Bishops, as successors of the apostles, receive from the Lord, to whom was given all power in heaven and on earth, the mission to teach all nations and to preach the Gospel to every creature, so that all men may attain to salvation by faith, baptism and the fulfillment of the commandments. To fulfill this mission, Christ the Lord promised the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, and on Pentecost day sent the Spirit from heaven, by whose power they would be witnesses to Him before the nations and peoples and kings even to the ends of the earth. And that duty, which the Lord committed to the shepherds of His people, is a true service, which in sacred literature is significantly called "diakonia" or ministry.

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

September

02	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
05	Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts)	9:30 a.m.
07	Labor Day - Parish Office Closed Serra Gifts Open	
09	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
12	Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts)	9:30 a.m.
	Night Fever	6:45 p.m.
13	Parish Breakfast	9:30 a.m.
	Family Catechesis	9:45 a.m.
14	I.C. Seniors Lunch Meeting	11:00 a.m.
16	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
19	Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts)	9:30 a.m.
	Santa Maria Barbeque	6:00 p.m.
22-24	NO 8 A.M. MASS - CONVOCATION	
23	Choir Practice	5:30 p.m.
25	Mass for Attorneys	5:45 p.m.
26	Fraternity of Secular Franciscan Order	9:00 a.m.
	Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts)	9:30 a.m.

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.

“Politics are never anything but the product of a person’s religious life. Break the chains of sin; cleanse yourself by confession. Only then will you be real rulers. For who can really be master if he is not master of himself, if reason does not rule his passions?”

– St. Catherine of Siena

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*

4. I have chosen the date of 8 December because of its rich meaning in the recent history of the Church. In fact, I will open the Holy Door on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. The Church feels a great need to keep this event alive. With the Council, the Church entered a new phase of her history. The Council Fathers strongly perceived, as a true breath of the Holy Spirit, a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way. The walls which too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were torn down and the time had come to proclaim the Gospel in a new way. It was a new phase of the same evangelization that had existed from the beginning. It was a fresh undertaking for all Christians to bear witness to their faith with greater enthusiasm and conviction. The Church sensed a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father’s love in the world.

Serra Gifts...

**Street Level of
Fr. Serra Hall
619-297-342**



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.

Missalettes

As previously announced, beginning in Advent this November, the missalettes will no longer be in the pews because their cost is too high for our small parish.

In October, Serra Gifts will offer the **Living With Christ** Missalette for \$8.99 each. Youth missalettes will also available for \$16.99 each.

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

JUNIPERO SERRA

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) -- To Andrew Galvan, Blessed Junipero Serra is a stalwart of faith and mission worthy of the title "saint."

"He was all wood and nails. He was a tough dude. He fought, he defended, he wrangled, he was frustrated and he was frustrating," Galvan told Catholic News Service.

A descendant of tribal members from the San Francisco Bay region, Galvan traces his family roots to California's first Christians, thousands of whom were baptized and confirmed by the 18th-century Spanish missionary.

Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Junipero Sept. 23 in Washington. Galvan said he hopes to be there.

Long a promoter of Blessed Serra, Galvan is the museum director and curator of Old Mission Dolores, the sixth-oldest of California's 21 historical missions.

He said Blessed Serra was "on fire" to heed Christ's call to witness, like Jesus's apostles and St. Francis of Assisi.

"His goal in life, from the time he was a novice ... was to be a missionary to Indians in the Americas, to bring the Gospel message where it had never gone before." Galvan said the friar, who was beatified in 1988 by St. John Paul II, never veered from that objective and went about it tirelessly, foregoing any convenience for himself.

According to his biographers, he slept little, traveled thousands of miles by foot, quietly endured injury and pain, ate modestly and spent long hours in prayer. When Blessed Serra thought he was failing in his efforts to evangelize, he blamed such defeat on his own sins.

"My God, I couldn't live the life he lived," Galvan said.

Miquel Joseph Serra took the Franciscan habit at age 17. He chose the name Junipero, after a companion of St. Francis known for his holy simplicity.

Junipero Serra became an adept student of philosophy and theology and was inspired by the stories of saints and missionaries. Always looking outward, the friar left a successful and comfortable life as a professor to embark on a missionary journey to America, knowing he would never return to Spain.

In Mexico, he spent 17 years building up Indian missions in the Sierra Gorda and traveling far and wide, preaching popular missions. In fervent sermons, he called on those who had fallen from faith to return to God's mercy.

Blessed Junipero did not reach upper California until he was 55. And when he did, said Galvan, he jumped from his donkey and kissed the ground.

"He's on sacred ground, because in his mind, being a student of (John Duns) Scotus, he is now entering this world that is completely innocent," he said referring to the famed Franciscan priest-philosopher of the Middle Ages. "And he (Serra) is the one bringing the Gospel where it has never been brought before."

Galvan has studied Blessed Serra for 37 years and has a unique connection to the soon-to-be saint. He can

point directly to him as the person who brought Christ to his family.

"That's a momentous event," said Galvan. "I can go into Mission Dolores right here and say, 'It is in this very room ... that my family first became Christian.' How many people have that joy and pleasure?"

Galvan, though, does not look back with rose-colored glasses. He is acutely aware of the toll upon the California native peoples by the missions, the colonial era and the times that followed.

He calls the encounter between Europeans and Indians an "unmitigated disaster."

"The colonization destroyed the native people along the California coast because of the destruction of the native environment, the changing of lifestyle and the unfortunate introduction of European diseases."

After Blessed Serra's death in 1784, mission populations rose and then sharply dropped. Closely knit mission communities only worsened the spread of illness. Disease was rampant and deadly.

An interpretive sign in the graveyard of Old Mission Santa Barbara gives an idea of the loss: "More than 4,000 Chumash Indians are buried in this cemetery." Despite the harsh history, Galvan said Blessed Serra deserves his devotion.

"He loved my ancestors. He loved Indians. He was in love with the idea of being a missionary here. His descriptions of my ancestors are fantastic," he said. "I'm in love with him and I'm devoted to him."

But not everyone shares that enthusiasm.

Galvan's cousin and apprentice, Vincent Medina, is of a younger generation of California native people promoting and teaching their language and culture. He is one of only a handful of people who can speak and understand Chochenyo, the nearly lost tongue of the East Bay Ohlone.

After studying his people from before and after Spanish colonization, Medina said he doesn't believe Father Serra should be among those the church names saints.

"Society for Ohlone people before colonization was good," he said. "The world before us was full of richness. It was full of complexity, it was full of beauty, the language speaks to that, the songs speak to that."

"There was ethnocide in the missions, there was a destruction of language, there was a destruction of culture." Medina told CNS Blessed Serra's canonization will only further the resentment many Indians have toward the church.

Additionally, Medina said he views saints as people who rise above the iniquities of their time. He thinks Blessed Serra might have had better forethought and a gentler approach to sharing his faith.

"He saw death, but he still kept moving forward. To me, that's not somebody who lived outside of their era. To me, that's somebody who's going with the status quo of their time."