

The Catholic Church of the  
**Immaculate Conception**

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e-mail: [parish@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:parish@ic-sandiego.org) Website: [www.ic-sandiego.org](http://www.ic-sandiego.org)

**September 20, 2015**

**Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor**  
[parish@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:parish@ic-sandiego.org) 619-295-4141 x 11

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**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](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

21	8 AM	<i>St. Matthew</i> † Winifred Caulfield	RP
22	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> No Mass (Convocation)	
23	8 AM	<i>St. Pius of Pietrelcina</i> No Mass (Convocation)	
24	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> No Mass (Convocation)	
25	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> † Bosiljka Maras	RP
26	8 AM	<i>Ss. Cosmas &amp; Damian; BVM</i> † Marija & Ruza Maras	RP
	5:15 PM	† Thomas McNamara	RP
27	8:30 AM	People of Immaculate Conception	RP
	10:00 AM	Adela Diaz, SI	RE
	11:30 AM	† William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 PM	† Angela Renee Kresge	RP

## APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

### September: Intentions of the Holy Father

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

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

## PRAY: SEMINARIANS IN THEOLOGY

3rd	Manuel Del Rio, St. John's Camarillo
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
1st	Raymond Napuli, Mt. Angel Seminary OR
1st	Michael O'Connor 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


21	Rev. Francis Foley
22	Rev. J. Patrick Foley
23	Rev. Franklin Fong, OFM
24	Rev. John Paul Forté, OP
25	Rev. Thomas Franxman, SJ
26	Rev. Joseph Freeman
27	Rev. Michael Froidurot

## PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Eph 4:1-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13  
 Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21  
 Wednesday: Ezr 9:5- (Ps) Tb 13:2-8; Lk 9:1-6  
 Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1-9; Lk 9:7-9  
 Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22  
 Saturday: Zec 2:5-15 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Lk 9:43-45

## 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, Alicia Ambrose, Shirley Pearson, Diego Cárdenas. Inez Cerda Bull 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, Joane Anderson
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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, Joan Schmittin, 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 & Betty Jackson Denise Cooney Joanne Mangiameli
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## WHY POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO GO AHEAD WITH SERRA CANONIZATION

### FROM THE PASTOR

*The following comes from a Sept. 3 posting by Bishop Robert Barron on Real Clear Religion.*

The canonization of Blessed Junípero Serra in Washington, D.C. — the first ever to take place on American soil — has generated a good deal of controversy.

For his defenders, Padre Serra was an intrepid evangelist and a model of Gospel living, while for his detractors, he was a shameless advocate of an oppressive colonial system that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Indians. Even many who typically back Pope Francis see this canonization as a rare *faux pas* for the Argentine pontiff.

It might first be wise to rehearse some of the basic facts of Serra's life. He was born in 1713 on the beautiful island of Mallorca off of the Spanish coast, and as a very young man, he joined a branch of the Franciscan order. He quickly became a star in the community, recognized for his impressive intellectual gifts and his profound spirituality. After many years of study, he earned his doctorate in philosophy and commenced a teaching career, which culminated in his receiving the Duns Scotus Chair of philosophy.

But when Padre Serra was thirty-six, he resolved to abandon his relatively comfortable life and promising career and become a missionary in the New World. He undertook this mission out of a sincere and deeply-felt desire to save souls, knowing full well that he would likely never return to his homeland. After spending a few years in Mexico City doing administrative work, he realized his dream to work with the native peoples of New Spain, first in Mexico and then in what was then called Baja California (Lower California). When he was around fifty years old, he was asked by his superiors to lead a missionary endeavor in Alta California, more or less the present day state of California. With the help of a small band of Franciscan brothers and under the protection of the Spanish government, he established a series of missions along the Pacific coast, from San Diego to San Francisco. He died in 1784 and was buried at the San Carlos Borromeo Mission in Carmel by the Sea.

Much of the disagreement regarding Junípero Serra hinges upon the interpretation of the mission project that he undertook. Though it is certainly true that the Imperial Spanish authorities had an interest in establishing a strong Spanish presence along the Pacific coast in order to block the intrusion of Russian settlers in the region, there is no doubt that Serra's first intention in setting up the missions was to evangelize the native peoples.

What fired his heart above all was the prospect of announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who had never before heard it, and there is no question that his missions provided the institutional framework for that proclamation.

Moreover, the missions were places where the Indians were taught the principles of agriculture and animal husbandry, which enabled them to move beyond a merely nomadic lifestyle. I find it fascinating, by the way, that there was nothing even vaguely analogous to these missions on the other side of the continent. Though by our standards they treated the native people in a rather patronizing manner, the Spanish evangelized and instructed the Indians, whereas the British settlers in the American colonies more or less pushed them out of the way.

Critics of Serra's project claim that Indians were compelled to join the missions, essentially as a slave labor force, and were baptized against their will. The consensus of responsible historians, however, is that both of these charges are false. In fact, the vast majority of the Indians recognized the advantage of living in connection with the missions, and only about 10% of those who had come to missions opted to leave. To be sure, those who left were hunted down and, upon their return, were sometimes subjected to corporal punishment.

Indeed, there is real evidence that Padre Serra countenanced such violence: in one of his letters, he speaks of the need to punish wayward Indians the way a parent would chastise a recalcitrant child, and in another document, he authorizes the purchase of shackles for the mission in San Diego. Certainly from our more enlightened perspective, we would recognize such behavior as morally wrong, and it is no good trying to whitewash the historical record so as to present Serra as blameless.

Having acknowledged this, however, it is most important to note that the lion's share of the evidence we have strongly indicates that Serra was a steadfast friend to the native peoples, frequently defending them against the violence and prejudice of the Spanish civil authorities. Very much in the spirit of Bartolomé de Las Casas, the great sixteenth-century defender of the Indians, Serra insisted upon the rights and prerogatives of the native tribes. In one case, he spoke out against the execution of an Indian who had killed one of Serra's own friends and colleagues, arguing that the whole point of his mission was to save life, not to take it. As Archbishop Jose Gomez has argued, this represents one of the first principled arguments against capital punishment ever to appear in Western culture.

One might ask why Pope Francis — who certainly knows all of the controversy surrounding Padre Serra — wants to push ahead with this canonization. First, he understands that declaring someone a saint is not to declare him or her morally flawless, nor is it to countenance every institution with which the saint was associated. Secondly and more importantly, he sees Junípero Serra as someone who, with extraordinary moral courage, went to the periphery of the society of his time in order to announce Jesus Christ. Serra could have pursued a very respectable career in the comfortable halls of European academy; but he opted to go, at great personal cost, to the margins — and this makes him an extraordinary model of a Pope Francis style missionary.

Was Padre Serra perfect? By no means. Was he a saint? Absolutely.

**AROUND THE PARISH**

**"KNOWING GOD'S WILL"  
WITH FR. ALBERT HAASE**

Discerning God's call and will in our lives is a thorny, challenging, and often misunderstood practice in the spiritual life:

- How can we hear the voice of God in our lives and know God's will?
- How do we know if this is really coming from God and not from ourselves - or the evil one?
- What attitudes and dispositions do we need for a wise discernment?
- What practices help us become more deeply aware of God's call in our lives?

Fr. Albert will focus on these questions during this one-day workshop. Join us on **Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the parish center at San Rafael parish, 17252 Bernardo Center Drive, in Rancho Bernardo. Lunch is included. **There is no cost but we do ask for a love offering to help offset the cost for lunch and show our appreciation to Father Haase.** Please let me know if you'll be attending (and, if so, how many) so I can get an accurate count for lunch: [codonnell@sanrafaelparish.org](mailto:codonnell@sanrafaelparish.org)

Come and bring a friend! We hope to see you all there!



Father Albert was ordained a Franciscan priest in 1983 and is a popular preacher, teacher, spiritual director, author, and radio personality. A former missionary to China for eleven years, Father Haase has authored eight books on popular spirituality and released three bestselling DVD's. Look him up at his website [www.AlbertOFM.org](http://www.AlbertOFM.org).

**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.

For information, please contact Fr. Richard at 619-295-4141, ext. 11, or email [pastor@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:pastor@ic-sandiego.org).



**2015 Baptism Schedule**

**September 21 Class  
September 27 Baptisms**

**(See [ic-sandiego.org](http://ic-sandiego.org) for more dates.)**

**FAQ ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD OR RELIGIOUS LIFE**

**What does a call from God sound like?**

There are many different ways God calls people. You don't have to wait for a lightning bolt or a supernatural vision. Most often the call from God is found deep within your own heart (planted there by God left to be discovered by you!). It might manifest itself in different ways such as a desire to want to help others or a desire to know God more deeply. If you like being with people especially during some of the bigger moments in their lives... their weddings, the birth of their children, the death of a loved one... the priesthood could be for you. No two callings are the same, just like no two priests are the same. The important thing is, if you think you've been called, check it out. What have you got to lose?

**Next week: What do priests do all day (especially during the week)?**

**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.

**Daily Mass Schedule Change for Week of September 20**

Due to the Convocation of Priests, there will be no 8:00 a.m. Mass celebrated on Tuesday through Thursday, September 22-24. Please pray for our bishops and all priests in the Diocese during this week of reflection and renewal.

**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

Contact James Stabile at [Gala@colfs.org](mailto:Gala@colfs.org).

**AROUND THE PARISH**

**Gifts of Treasure**

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

**September 13, 2015**

**Total Collection: \$5,074.19**  
**Envelopes: \$3,550.00--Plate: \$1,524.19**  
**Total contributing households: 89**

5:15 Sat	\$1040.52
8:30 Sun	\$1185.33
10:00 Sun	\$1489.29
11:30 Sun	\$ 517.25
5:15 Sun	\$ 706.81
Mailed	\$ 135.00

**EXPENSES**  
September 7-11, 2015

Cable Service	\$87.16
Hall Supplies	\$101.29
Internet/Computer	\$253.78
Janitorial Supplies	\$259.07
Music	\$500.00
Office Supplies	\$149.30
Postage	\$128.96
Repairs - Church A/C	\$ 615.00
Supplies-Ministry	\$69.60
Supply Priests	\$1335.00
Telephone	\$258.78

**Total: \$3,757.94**

**Junipero Serra Museum**

In honor of Blessed Fr. Junipero Serra's canonization, the museum will be open September 23-27. For info, call San Diego History Center, 619-232-6203.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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](mailto:rutheis@cox.net) or call 619-981-1424.

**WAVES OF HONOR**  
**SEAWORLD PARKS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**One-time limited free admission to SeaWorld San Diego per veteran service member and up to 3 guests.**

Go to **WavesofHonor.com** to register for and obtain your free admissions. Online only: Must be obtained in advance through the online registration process. 'til December 31, 2015.

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL: LUMEN GENTIUM**

**THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH**

... 25. But when either the Roman Pontiff or the Body of Bishops together with him defines a judgment, they pronounce it in accordance with Revelation itself, which all are obliged to abide by and be in conformity with, that is, the Revelation which as written or orally handed down is transmitted in its entirety through the legitimate succession of bishops and especially in care of the Roman Pontiff himself, and which under the guiding light of the Spirit of truth is religiously preserved and faithfully expounded in the Church. The Roman Pontiff and the bishops, in view of their office and the importance of the matter, by fitting means diligently strive to inquire properly into that revelation and to give apt expression to its contents; but a new public revelation they do not accept as pertaining to the divine deposit of faith.

26. A bishop marked with the fullness of the sacrament of Orders, is "the steward of the grace of the supreme priesthood," especially in the Eucharist, which he offers or causes to be offered, and by which the Church continually lives and grows. This Church of Christ is truly present in all legitimate local congregations of the faithful which, united with their pastors, are themselves called churches in the New Testament. For in their locality these are the new People called by God, in the Holy Spirit and in much fullness. In them the faithful are gathered together by the preaching of the Gospel of Christ, and the mystery of the Lord's Supper is celebrated, that by the food and blood of the Lord's body the whole brotherhood may be joined together. In any community of the altar, under the sacred ministry of the bishop, there is exhibited a symbol of that charity and "unity of the mystical Body, without which there can be no salvation."( In these communities, though frequently small and poor, or living in the Diaspora, Christ is present, and in virtue of His presence there is brought together one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. For "the partaking of the body and blood of Christ does nothing other than make us be transformed into that which we consume".

**PARISH & COMMUNITY**

**Parish Calendar**

**September**

- 22-24 NO 8:00 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.
- 27 Building Fund Collection
- Family Catechesis 9:45 a.m.
- 30 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m

**October**

- 03 Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts) 9:30 a.m.
- 05 I.C. Seniors Lunch Meeting 11:00 a.m.
- 07 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m
- 10 Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts) 9:30 a.m.
- 11 Parish Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
- Parish Registration Sunday
- 14 Choir Practice 5:30 p.m
- 17 Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts) 9:30 a.m.
- 18 Mission Sunday - Propagation of the Faith  
Special Collection

**NEW HYMNAL**

So far parishioners have dedicated 125 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.

**ARCHBISHOP JOSE GOMEZ OF LOS ANGELES:**

*“If the child in the womb has no right to be born, if the sick and the old have no right to be taken care of — then there is no solid foundation to defend anyone’s human rights.”*

*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. The modern world’s values were not only respected but honored, its efforts approved, its aspirations purified and blessed ... Another point we must stress is this: all this rich teaching is channeled in one direction, the service of mankind, of every condition, in every weakness

With these sentiments of gratitude for everything the Church has received, and with a sense of responsibility for the task that lies ahead, we shall cross the threshold of the Holy Door fully confident that the strength of the Risen Lord, who constantly supports us on our pilgrim way, will sustain us. May the Holy Spirit, who guides the steps of believers in cooperating with the work of salvation wrought by Christ, lead the way and support the People of God so that they may contemplate the face of mercy.

**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.

**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>

**IS GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST US  
INEVITABLE?**

- *Michael Youssef*

America, and the West, seem to be sinking into the abyss, and it's time to ask: Is God's judgement now inevitable?

In contemplating the answer, we should consider some of the obvious reasons why judgment could come soon:

- 1 The blood of millions of innocent lives is shed and body parts are sold for profit in this country, while our government supports and funds such monstrous activity.
- 2 God's purpose in Creation, and His declared purpose for marriage, has been ignored and ruled against by the highest court in the land.
- 3 Police authority is devalued by a great many people and undermined by political leaders.
- 4 God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians are forbidden by the U.S. administration from saying the name of their God in the military.
- 5 European businessmen and government officials cannot wait to do business with Iran—a leading state sponsor of the persecution and murder of innocent people.
- 6 Persecuted Christians from the Middle East and elsewhere are forbidden entry visas into the United States and Europe. And yet illegal aliens—terrorists among them—get in and are given support.
- 7 News programs report nearly every day on the rape and murder of Christian women and children by ISIS, while our government leaders cannot be bothered to condemn it, let alone do something about it.
- 8 A sex change operation can get you a call from the highest office holder in the land to commend you for your “courage,” while families of fallen soldiers receive nothing.
- 9 Those who announce their choice to reject God's created order become

heroes, while those who have taken a vow of poverty and serve the least among us are discriminated against.

With those, and many other government decisions made to marginalize righteousness and the righteous, can God's judgment be far behind?

We can already see the signs of the lifting of God's hand upon America through the cowardice of today's politicians. Lying by public officials is rampant (and is even considered a virtue by many). Politicians refer to their political opponents as terrorists, while at the same time, they refuse to label the real terrorists as such. Elected government officials, out of fear of criticism, hide behind parliamentary maneuvers to avoid obeying the Constitution and allowing religious liberty.

We are already reaping the leaders that we deserve.

Twenty-six hundred years ago, a similar situation took place among a people who had once believed in and worshipped the one true God. The rulers and the people of the day had abandoned God.

But God sent them spokesmen to deliver the truth—among them a man named Jeremiah.

Jeremiah warned and warned and warned them that God's judgment could not be stayed forever. God's principle of sowing and reaping will be carried out unless there is a perceptible change.

But no one would listen. They mocked God, and Jeremiah was vilified—just as today's spokesmen are, such as myself.

Sadly, the inevitable judgment came. Terrorists from Babylon entered the “Promised Land” and maimed and killed many and took others hostage. Of course, the same people who had mocked God, then cried out, “Where is God?”

The very God they had insulted, the very God they had rejected, then ironically became the object of their ire for not answering their pleas and giving them the prosperity they wanted.

What form of judgment will God take this time? Only He knows the answer to that. But our country can still turn to Him now, before it is too late. If we don't, however, God's judgment will be inevitable.