

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

November 01, 2015

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor
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
pictures@marshalong.com

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 — Pray for the Faithful Departed —

MASS INTENTIONS

02	8 AM	<i>All Souls Day</i> All Souls Novena	RP
	7 PM	Priest's Intentions	RP
03	8 AM	<i>St. Martin de Porras</i> All Souls Novena	RE
04	8 AM	<i>St. Charles Borromeo</i> All Souls Novena	RP
05	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> All Souls Novena	RP
06	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> All Souls Novena	RP
07	8 AM	<i>Weekday, BVM</i> All Souls Novena	RP
08	5:15 PM	Rev. Richard Perozich, SI	RP
	8:30 AM	†Richard & Kristan Wagner	RE
	10:00 AM	All Souls Novena	RP
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RP
	5:15 PM	Rudy Castillo, SI	RP

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

November: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.

Evangelization: That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

PRAY: SEMINARIANS IN THEOLOGY

1st	Manuel Del Rio, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo
4th	David Exner North American College Rome,
4th	Brian Frice Mt. Angel Seminary OR
2nd	Oscar Lopez, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo
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


02	Bishop Robert McElroy
03	Bishop Robert Brom
04	Bishop Gilbert Chavez
05	Rev. Richard Huston
06	Very Rev. Luke Jauregui
07	Rev. Tommie Jennings
08	Rev. John Keller, OSA

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9
 Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16; Ps 131:1-9; Lk 14:25-33
 Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1-9; Lk 14:25-33
 Thursday: Rom 14:7-12; Ps 27:1-14; Lk 15:1-10
 Friday: Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 16:1-8
 Saturday: Rom 16:3-27; Ps 145:2-11; Lk 16:9-15

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, Maria Esperanza Kramer Joan Busalacchi Georgiana Ottenheimer, Mark Brandon. Jeanne Pontius, Esther Salazar, Joane Anderson Janet Meyers Maria Diaz Susan Rykowski
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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, Patrick Piggot, Rodney Serrano, Concepción Garza, Richard Solís Moreno, Alvin Weaver, William Bethel, Lillian Sinclair, Olga Hritz, Imelda Hoeckelmann, Angelina Olivarez, Alice Perry, Joseph Moreno,	Louie Serrano, Gustavo Sosa, Floyd Watson, Iola Torre, Emilie Graham, Angela Cordova, Ramiro Moreno, Alexander Toczko Jeannette Toczko José Teofilo Solorio Ray & Betty Jackson Denise Cooney Joanne Mangiameli Edna Moore Paul Ramirez Isabella Asaro
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ALL SAINTS

FROM THE PASTOR

Why should our praise and glorification, or even the celebration of this feast day mean anything to the saints? What do they care about earthly honors when their heavenly Father honors them by fulfilling the faithful promise of the Son? What does our commendation mean to them? The saints have no need of honor from us; neither does our devotion add the slightest thing to what is theirs. Clearly, if we venerate their memory, it serves us, not them. But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed by a tremendous yearning.

Calling the saints to mind inspires, or rather arouses in us, above all else, a longing to enjoy their company, so desirable in itself. We long to share in the citizenship of heaven, to dwell with the spirits of the blessed, to join the assembly of patriarchs, the ranks of the prophets, the council of apostles, the great host of martyrs, the noble company of confessors and the choir of virgins. In short, we long to be united in happiness with all the saints. But our dispositions change. The Church of all the first followers of Christ awaits us, but we do nothing about it. The saints want us to be with them, and we are indifferent. The souls of the just await us, and we ignore them.

Come, brothers, let us at length spur ourselves on. We must rise again with Christ, we must seek the world which is above and set our mind on the things of heaven. Let us long for those who are longing for us, hasten to those who are waiting for us, and ask those who look for our coming to intercede for us. We should not only want to be with the saints, we should also hope to possess their happiness. While we desire to be in their company, we must also earnestly seek to share in their glory. Do not imagine that there is anything harmful in such an ambition as this; there is no danger in setting our hearts on such glory.

When we commemorate the saints we are inflamed with another yearning: that Christ our life may also appear to us as he appeared to them and that we may one day share in his glory. Until then we see him, not as he is, but as he became for our sake. He is our head, crowned, not with glory, but with the thorns of our sins. As members of that head, crowned with thorns, we should be ashamed to live in luxury; his purple robes are a mockery rather than an honor. When Christ comes again, his death shall no longer be proclaimed, and we shall know that we also have died, and that our life is hidden with him. The glorious head of the Church will appear and his glorified members will shine in splendor with him, when he forms this lowly body anew into such glory as belongs to himself, its head.

Therefore, we should aim at attaining this glory with a wholehearted and prudent desire. That we may rightly hope and strive for such blessedness, we must above all seek the prayers of the saints. Thus, what is beyond our own powers to obtain will be granted through their intercession. — *Saint Bernard, Abbot*

ALL SOULS

We see that death is gain, life is loss. Paul says: For me life is Christ, and death a gain. What does "Christ" mean but to die in the body, and receive the breath of life? Let us then

die with Christ, to live with Christ. We should have a daily familiarity with death, a daily desire for death. By this kind of detachment our soul must learn to free itself from the desires of the body. It must soar above earthly lusts to a place where they cannot come near, to hold it fast. It must take on the likeness of death, to avoid the punishment of death. The law of our fallen nature is at war with the law of our reason and subjects the law of reason to the law of error. What is the remedy? Who will set me free from this body of death? The grace of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We have a doctor to heal us; let us use the remedy he prescribes. The remedy is the grace of Christ, the dead body our own. Let us then be exiles from our body, so as not to be exiles from Christ. Though we are still in the body, let us not give ourselves to the things of the body. We must not reject the natural rights of the body, but we must desire before all else the gifts of grace.

What more need be said? It was by the death of one man that the world was redeemed. Christ did not need to die if he did not want to, but he did not look on death as something to be despised, something to be avoided, and he could have found no better means to save us than by dying. Thus his death is life for all. We are sealed with the sign of his death; when we pray we preach his death; when we offer sacrifice we proclaim his death. His death is victory; his death is a sacred sign; each year his death is celebrated with solemnity by the whole world.

What more should we say about his death since we use this divine example to prove that it was death alone that won freedom from death, and death itself was its own redeemer? Death is then no cause for mourning, for it is the cause of mankind's salvation. Death is not something to be avoided, for the Son of God did not think it beneath his dignity, nor did he seek to escape it.

Death was not part of nature; it became part of nature. God did not decree death from the beginning; he prescribed it as a remedy. Human life was condemned because of sin to unremitting labour and unbearable sorrow and so began to experience the burden of wretchedness. There had to be a limit to its evils; death had to restore what life had forfeited. Without the assistance of grace, immortality is more of a burden than a blessing.

The soul has to turn away from the aimless paths of this life, from the defilement of an earthly body; it must reach out to those assemblies in heaven (though it is given only to the saints to be admitted to them) to sing the praises of God. We learn from Scripture how God's praise is sung to the music of the harp: *Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God Almighty; just and true are your ways, King of the nations. Who will not revere and glorify your nature? You alone are holy; all nations will come and worship before you.* The soul must also desire to witness your nuptials, Jesus, and to see your bride escorted from earthly to heavenly realities, as all rejoice and sing: All flesh will come before you. No longer will the bride be held in subjection to this passing world but will be made one with the spirit.

Above all else, holy David prayed that he might see and gaze on this: *One thing I have asked of the Lord, this I shall pray for: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, and to see how gracious is the Lord.*

— *St Ambrose, Bishop*

AROUND THE PARISH

02 NOV ... ALL SOULS DAY

We will participate in Old Town's Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) festivities and keep the church open until 9 p.m. on **November 1 and 2**. We need volunteers from 4 p.m. to closing to greet our visitors and to help maintain a prayerful atmosphere in the church proper. Please contact Elena Orozco or the parish office if you can volunteer.

Traditional Latin Mass in the evening with procession to the cemetery...6:30 p.m.

01 NOV ... NIGHT FEVER: LET'S EVANGELIZE!

On Nov. 01, our parish will be wide open until 9 p.m., we will be inviting passers-by to come see, sit in contemplation, listen to music, and pray. If you can assist, please come to the church at 4 p.m. or later.

Saint Charles Borromeo Academy

19 NOV ... Saint Charles Borromeo Academy invites interested families to visit us **Thursday, November 19th, 5:30 to 7:30pm**. We'll be offering classroom tours, an opportunity to meet with current families and enjoy light refreshments. For more information call: (619) 223-8271 or visit us at: SaintCharlesAcademy.com.

The **Prayer Chain Ministry** has been established in our parish. Our intention is to mobilize our parish community to pray for someone who has suddenly become ill, is going in for surgery, has a personal emergency or special needs they would like kept in prayer. Please contact Ruthe Jenkins if you are in need of prayers or if you are interested in being part of this powerful ministry on either the contact team or as part of the prayer chain. Email: rutheis@cox.net or phone 619-981-1424.

01 NOV ... 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. The program continues on Sunday, November 01, 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.

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



2015 Baptism Schedule

November 9 Class
November 15 Baptisms

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

NOTE: No baptisms in December.

24 NOV ... St. Joseph Academy High School ...

...cordially invites you to attend an OPEN HOUSE on **Saturday, October 24, 2015**, from 10am to 1pm. St. Joseph Academy High School offers a challenging college-prep curriculum, vibrant Catholic environment, CIF sports and dedicated faculty. SJA forms Catholic leaders championing the light of Christ in today's society while maintaining the most affordable private high school tuition in San Diego. Families and students of all ages are encouraged to visit our beautiful 4-acre campus nestled in the hills of San Marcos.

Visit us at www.SaintJosephAcademy.org.

01 NOV...St. Augustine High School...

Open House will be on Sunday, November 1st from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Tours begin at 1:00 pm and a presentation in the gym will begin at 2:00 pm. No RSVP needed.

For more information contact the Director of Admissions, Mike Haupt (619) 282-2184 ext. 5521 or mhaupt@sahs.org.

Awesome Fabric Arts Group

of Immaculate Conception
is having a sale!

..... **2015**



Up to **50%** off **EVERYTHING** *must go!*

*We need to make room for new projects
Come have breakfast
and do some Christmas shopping*

Sunday, November 8, 2015

8:00 - 11:30 am

Serra Hall

AROUND THE PARISH

Gifts of Treasure

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

October 25, 2015

Total Collection: 5,146.56
Envelopes: \$3437.00 Plate: \$1,609.56
Total contributing households: 94

5:15 Sat	\$900.00
8:30 Sun	\$1413.25
10:00 Sun	\$ 941.64
11:30 Sun	\$ 847.67
5:15 Sun	\$ 664.00
Mailed	\$ 380.00

EXPENSES

October 19-23, 2015

Automobile	\$139.00
Gas & Electric	\$1,651.41
Internet/Cable	\$42.00
Ministry Supplies	\$164.17
Music	\$600.00

Total: \$2,596.58

Quarters and Cans:
\$1,005.00

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.

Now available -- Living With Christ Missalettes for \$8.99 each. Youth missalettes (with color illustrations) available for \$16.99 each.

Advent candles and religious Christmas cards are available.

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

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL:
LUMEN GENTIUM**

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

... 28. On account of this sharing in their priesthood and mission, let priests sincerely look upon the bishop as their father and reverently obey him. And let the bishop regard his priests as his co-workers and as sons and friends, just as Christ called His disciples now not servants but friends. All priests, both diocesan and religious, by reason of Orders and ministry, fit into this body of bishops and priests, and serve the good of the whole Church according to their vocation and the grace given to them.

In virtue of their common sacred ordination and mission, all priests are bound together in intimate brotherhood, which naturally and freely manifests itself in mutual aid, spiritual as well as material, pastoral as well as personal, in their meetings and in communion of life, of labor and charity.

Let them, as fathers in Christ, take care of the faithful whom they have begotten by baptism and their teaching. Becoming from the heart a pattern to the flock, let them so lead and serve their local community that it may worthily be called by that name, by which the one and entire people of God is signed, namely, the Church of God. Let them remember that by their daily life and interests they are showing the face of a truly sacerdotal and pastoral ministry to the faithful and the infidel, to Catholics and non-Catholics, and that to all they bear witness to the truth and life, and as good shepherds go after those also, who though baptized in the Catholic Church have fallen away from the use of the sacraments, or even from the faith.

**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

November

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1 | All Saints Day (Regular Saturday/Sunday Schedule) | |
| | Harp Meditation | 2:00 p.m. |
| | Second Vespers of the Feast of All Saints | 3:00 p.m. |
| | Night Fever | 7:00 p.m. |
| | Old Town Day of the Dead Festivities | |
| | Halloween Candy Collection | |
| 2 | All Souls Day - Morning Mass | 8:00 a.m. |
| | I.C. Seniors Luncheon | 11:00 a.m. |
| | Harp Meditation | 2:00 p.m. |
| | Sung Requiem Mass for All Souls | 6:30 p.m. |
| 4 | Choir Practice | 5:30 p.m. |
| 7 | Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts) | 9:30 a.m. |
| 8 | Parish Pancake Breakfast | 9:30 a.m. |
| 11 | Choir Practice | 5:30 p.m. |
| 14 | Quilters (Awesome Fabric Arts) | 9:30 a.m. |
| 15 | Building Fund Collection | |

01 NOV -- 04 NOV ... Halloween Candy Collection For The Casa de los Pobres (House of the Poor)

The Sisters of the Casa save donated Halloween candy for the annual Christmas food distribution. Please consider asking your family and friends, if they would donate part of their wrapped Halloween candy for the poor children in Mexico to make their Christmas a little more festive. **Please put wrapped candy in bags and drop off on Nov. 1 in designated basket in the hall or bring it to the parish office by Wed., Nov. 4.**

For more information contact Cara Bandera of the Notre Dame Club at (858) 243-3926; carabandera@gmail.com or Caroline Kelner of the Casa de los Pobres at (858) 273-5545; carolinekelner10@gmail.com. Thank you!

GRACE — JUSTICE — MERCY

Grace is giving us what we do not deserve. Mercy is *not* giving us what we *do* deserve. And Justice is giving us what we do deserve.

— Michael Voris

FROM MISERICORDIAE VULTUS - Pope Francis

BULL OF INDICATION 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*

8. With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father was that of revealing the mystery of divine love in its fullness. “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8,16), John affirms for the first and only time in all of Holy Scripture. This love has now been made visible and tangible in Jesus’ entire life. His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially in the face of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion.

29 MAR — 08 APR ... MERCY PILGRIMAGE

Poland-Prague-Vienna-Warsaw-Czestochowa-Krakow



- Buffet Breakfast Daily, 7 Dinners
- Sightseeing and Entrance Fees per Itinerary
- Private Deluxe Motor Coach
- Professional Tour Escort / Licensed Guides
- Czestochowa - Shrine of the Black Madonna
- Divine Mercy Feast Day Mass with His Eminence, Cardinal Dzwisz
- Visit the - Infant Jesus of Prague
- Mass Daily

Fr. Luke Jaurequi, Spiritual Director

Dates: - March 29th to April 8th, 2016

Cost: \$3159.00 Land & Air from San Diego (per person/ double occupancy)

Call Saint Rose of Lima or stop by the office for the itinerary (619) 427-0230.

To book the trip contact, or for more information: Best Catholic Pilgrimages 800-908-BEST (2378), info@religious-travel.com.

CATHOLICS OF THE SECOND CLASS?

The “universal call to holiness” identified and explained in the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, is widely celebrated as one of Vatican II’s most compelling ideas. It’s also one of the building-blocks of what Pope St. John Paul II called the “New Evangelization:” the Catholic Church’s rediscovery of herself as a community of “missionary disciples” (in Pope Francis’s happy term).

Thus it comes as a surprise, indeed something more disturbing and unpleasant than a surprise, that some Synod fathers are pressing the question of whether the universal call to holiness is, in fact, universal.

The question isn’t put quite like that, of course. But it’s not easy to interpret in any other way the claim by some members of Synod-2015 that the Church’s teaching on chastity, marriage, and the family is simply too difficult to live out, and therefore some Catholics—perhaps many Catholics—should be exempt from it (and thereby exempt from the universal call to holiness). Those given this pass by their local bishops may, it seems live with the Church’s tacit blessing in relationships long considered obstacles to moral and spiritual health. The exempt may receive the sacraments without being fully in communion with the Church in their manner of life. They may continue for an indeterminate period of time in what amounts to a kind of de facto personal schism that effectively detaches them from the global communion of Catholicism. They may, in sum, live as if the universal call to holiness were not universal, but something for the saints alone.

There are at least two serious problems here.

First of all, sanctity, as Vatican II insisted, is for everyone. Why? Because it’s only by becoming, with the help of God’s mercy and grace, the saints we were baptized to be that we fulfill our Christian and human destiny. This coming Sunday, Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Louis and Blessed Zélie Martin, the parents of St. Thérèse of Lisieux—living proof that sanctity in marriage is possible in modernity. Doesn’t their example apply to all? Don’t those who offer an exemption from the universal call to holiness understand that the Church canonizes saints, not for their sake—God bountifully takes care of his holy ones—but for *our* sake: that we might see, in this case in our own times, the nobility of which men and women are capable, if

we cooperate with the divine pedagogy inscribed in the world and in us?

The second problem is that deconstructing the universal call to holiness into a call issued only to the few creates an entire, vast class of Second Class Catholics: people whose leaders think them incapable of greatness and immune to the attraction of heroic sanctity; people who thereby come to think of themselves that way. Is that the way of “pastoral accompaniment?” Is that any way to be the “Church permanently in mission” for which the Holy Father insistently calls—by telling people they’re just not good enough? It seems a most unlikely evangelical program.

We are all sinners who live by grace and mercy alone. But it is precisely as sinners that we know the power of witness as an incentive to deeper conversion. And that witness often comes from surprising people and venues (a carpenter’s son in the backwaters of Galilee; a bourgeois family in a small town in Normandy). Devolving the authority to give exemptions to the universal call to holiness to local churches whose leaders seem to have lost confidence in the power of the Gospel and the power of Gospel witnesses is not, it seems to me (and I suspect to many others), something that Synod-2015 should endorse.

—George Weigel

FR. PEROZICH RESPONDS

It is curious how a Catholic who knowingly lives contrary to the faith and whose behavior of mortal sin, often in sexual situations of marriage outside the church or homogenital sex, complains that he is not welcome, that he is marginalized, that he is treated as a second class citizen because his behavioral choice stops him from doing what others in the church who are living chastely are able to do: receive the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist.

Feelings only form part of the man. His behaviors reflect what is in his heart: either union with Jesus which can be strengthened by the sacramental life of grace, or alienation caused by chosen behavior in which mortal sin blocks the reception of sacramental grace.

In order that people who are in mortal sin because of their choices of sexual intimacy outside of Holy Matrimony be seen to the rest of the assembly as equal by going up for Holy Communion, which is called sacrilege and which multiplies mortal sin, some are pressing Holy Church for an accommodation for their life choices contrary to the gospel and to the faith in Jesus in the universal call to holiness.

Some bishops even have proposed calling the call to holiness only an ideal for the few in order to try to assuage the guilt of those who choose to live outside the call. The ideal is only attainable by some - the saints.

I refuse second class citizenship in the kingdom. Holiness is not an ideal. It is the call and gift to me, to you, to everyone; but it requires a response to grace of living through, with, and in Jesus Christ in repentance.