

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 08, 2015

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor
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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 Saint Junípero 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

09	8 AM	<i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	RP
		All Souls Novena	
10	8 AM	<i>St. Leo the Great</i>	RE
		All Souls Novena	
11	8 AM	<i>St. Martin of Tours</i>	RP
		†Manuel Gonsalves	
12	8 AM	<i>St. Josephat</i>	RP
		Melanie Slate, SI	
13	8 AM	<i>St. Frances Xavier Cabrini</i>	RP
		Marsha Long, SI	
14	8 AM	<i>Weekday, BVM</i>	RP
		†Ken Eichinger	
	5:15 PM	†Maria Cessalia	RP
15	8:30 AM	†Angie Olivares	RP
	10:00 AM	Georgiana Ottenheimer, SI	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 PM	†Sr. An Mary Dueñas	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 McWeeny 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


09	Rev. Brian Kelly
10	Rev. Ronald Kelso, SSC
11	Rev. William Kernan
12	Rev. Gwang Hyen Kim
13	Rev. Arnold Rex Kintanar
14	Rev. Chris Kintanar
15	Rev. Ignatius Kipchirchir

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Ez 47:1-12; Ps 46:2-9; 1 Cor 3:9-17; Jn 2:13-22
 Tuesday: Wis 2:23--3:9; Ps 34:2-19; Lk 17:7-10
 Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11; Ps 82:3-7; Lk 17:11-19
 Thursday: Wis 7:22--8:1; Ps 119:89-91,130-175; Lk 17:20-25
 Friday: Wis 13:1-9; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 17:26-37
 Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Ps 105:2-43; Lk 18:1-8

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, Yolanda Garcia 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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UNDERPLAYING SIN

FROM THE PASTOR

In the post Christian era, this time where the Bible, faith in Jesus, the longstanding Tradition handed down through the apostles to this very day, the value is no longer faith, rather it has become equality, justice, fairness, and rights on the individual's terms.

Equality is understood as my thoughts, feelings, and actions are just as good and valid as everyone else's; the truth as I claim it to be is reality. Justice no longer refers to what we owe to God and the other, but what everyone else owes to me. Fairness means that I can change anything I wish in order to gain advantage toward my objectives. Rights means what I feel I am entitled to have or do with no reference to anyone other than myself.

This, faithful Christians, is the "original sin" of Adam and Eve. It has resurfaced full force in 2015, even from the mouths of some bishops at the Synod in Rome. God's will then takes a subordinate role to our own wills.

St. Paul educates us clearly on sin. It is subtle. It is powerful. It is all consuming. It is deceptive. It is seductive. It is life changing. Sin has power to alter our thinking, our desires, our choices and behaviors. It undermines the foundation of us as children of God, created by Him, for Him, and for eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Sin uses the "values" of the age to pervert us.

St. Paul also tells us that there is a remedy for sin, Jesus Christ. That Remedy enters into our souls at baptism, is strengthened in Eucharist, cleanses in Penance, reorders our minds, hearts and wills in prayer and in the works of mercy where we allow Jesus who now lives in us to direct our lives.

To self justify, to appear to be good and right before others, some Christians reduce sin to an act against the commandments. One of the most common mantras is that "homosexuality is not a sin, rather only homosexual acts are." This kind of thinking both is false and dangerous to the soul.

Jesus, commenting on dietary laws, says that nothing that enters through the stomach and passes out to the latrine is sinful. He clarifies, Mark 7:21-23, "For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

Another list of these evils is called the seven capital sins: pride, ire, avarice, envy, sloth, gluttony, and lust. These iniquities are passed to all men through the original sin. While the guilt of original sin is removed in baptism, these iniquities or tendencies remain. Iniquities become activated through our life experiences. James 1:14, "each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives

birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." If a person's desires are directed toward sinful acts, then sin has power over the person.

The force of sin has three levels: iniquity, sin, and transgression. Iniquity is the force in us pushing us to do wrong. No guilt is incurred, but the sin is in us. In the form of desire toward something evil or toward a good which is not proper to us at the time. Sin in its classic sense is trying to obey, but missing the mark. Transgression is the most severe, setting aside God's law for our own law in its place.

Some Christians try eliminate sin by falsely appealing to their consciences which are not informed by God, rather by themselves or the forces of the world. Recently Archbishop Blaise Cupich of Chicago misled his flock when he incompletely quoted the inviolability of conscience, leaving out the obedience to God as conscience's prime directive, thus giving people permission to do what they "felt" is right in "conscience". In testing his spirit, it was found wanting of the full truth of Jesus and the Church.

Thus recognizing the great power of sin, that it indeed is already present in the soul and heart (seat of desire) as an iniquity waiting to be activated by life experiences, it is like a cancer not yet fully active. Whether actively engaged or still potentially in the soul, sin needs a remedy. God the Father sent us one, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

St. Paul explains to us our weakness, and how it is conquered in Romans 7:18-25, "I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh. The willing is ready at hand, but doing the good is not. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. So, then, I discover the principle that when I want to do right, evil is at hand. For I take delight in the law of God, in my inner self, but I see in my members another principle at war with the law of my mind, taking me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus enters into us in baptism as a medicine against the power of sin. We engage Him by accepting Him as Lord, praying the scriptures, adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, supplication, frequent Eucharist, Penance, works of mercy, allowing Him to live in and through us in whom we "live, move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

Do not underplay the power of sin in your life. Call actively always and everywhere on the name of Jesus. Test the spirits of those leaders who try to influence you to their way of thinking, including this bulletin article. Read your bible and catechism for the truth. Above all, turn to Jesus Christ recognizing yourself as a sinner imperfect before Him. Let Him love you into grace today and every day of your life, so that at the resurrection of the dead, Jesus may present you to your heavenly Father forgiven, free, holy and undefiled.

AROUND THE PARISH

10 NOV ... St. Junípero Serra Presentation Mission San Diego de Alcalá

Fr. Joseph Chinnici O.F.M. will present "Holiness and Conflict: the Missionary Spirituality of St. Junípero Serra. Father will review Serra's life, work in Alta California, and the current controversy surrounding his canonization through the lens of elements of his Franciscan spiritual vision.

Fr. Chinnici is President of the Franciscan School of Theology in Oceanside, Professor of Church History, obtained his doctorate in history from Oxford University, and is the author of numerous books and articles on Catholic Church history.

See enclosed flyer or call the Mission at 619 283-7319 for information.

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.

15 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 15, at 9:45, right after the 8:30 AM Mass. All children must be accompanied by their parents at each session.

FAQ ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD OR RELIGIOUS LIFE

If I'm thinking about giving the seminary a try, what should I tell my girlfriend?

Girls and dating are a part of life, and it's ok to enjoy their company. When someone becomes a priest, he takes a promise of celibacy so that he can give himself totally to God and the people of the parish. Chaste dating before you become a priest can be helpful. Not only does it help you to grow in trusting another person and knowing what it means to build intimacy, it also helps you to understand what it feels like to fall in love, to experience a broken heart, to say goodbye to someone you care deeply for. So, back to the question...what do you tell your girlfriend? Tell her that what you learned dating her will make you a better priest and person. Ask for her prayer and support as you enter this new stage of your life, and promise to pray for her as well.



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.

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.

Awesome Fabric Arts Group

of Immaculate Conception
is having a sale!



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.

November 01, 2015

Total Collection: \$5908.66
Envelopes: \$4387.45 Plate: \$1,521.21
Total contributing households: 102

5:15 Sat	\$ 798.00
8:30 Sun	\$1835.81
10:00 Sun	\$ 783.70
11:30 Sun	\$ 513.81
5:15 Sun	\$ 955.34
Mailed	\$1022.00

EXPENSES

October 26-30, 2015

Cable	\$87.16
Diocesan Tax	\$4,269.14
Health Insurance	\$1,515.61
Music	\$600.00
Office Supplies	\$284.30
Payroll (incl. taxes)	\$3,139.16
Payroll Service	\$46.45
Pension (employee)	\$369.50
Sunday Envelopes	\$174.99
Waste Disposal	\$388.26
Workers Comp	\$98.85

Total: \$10,973.42

2016 Catholic Calendar

Parishioners may pick up their 2016 Feasts & Saints calendar in Serra Hall after Mass today.

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 _____

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

Beginning the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, the missalettes will no longer be in the pews because their cost is too high for our small parish.

Living With Christ Missalettes for \$8.99 each & youth missalettes (with color illustrations) for \$16.99 each are now available in the gift shop.

Purchase your Advent candles and religious Christmas cards from Serra Gifts to support I.C.

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 Because the human race today is joining more and more into a civic, economic and social unity, it is that much the more necessary that priests, by combined effort and aid, under the leadership of the bishops and the Supreme Pontiff, wipe out every kind of separateness, so that the whole human race may be brought into the unity of the family of God.

29. At a lower level of the hierarchy are deacons, upon whom hands are imposed "not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service." For strengthened by sacramental grace, in communion with the bishop and his group of priests they serve in the diaconate of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity to the people of God. It is the duty of the deacon, according as it shall have been assigned to him by competent authority, to administer baptism solemnly, to be custodian and dispenser of the Eucharist, to assist at and bless marriages in the name of the Church, to bring Viaticum to the dying, to read the Sacred Scripture to the faithful, to instruct and exhort the people, to preside over the worship and prayer of the faithful, to administer sacramentals, to officiate at funeral and burial services. Dedicated to duties of charity and of administration, let deacons be mindful of the admonition of Blessed Polycarp: "Be merciful, diligent, walking according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all."

PARISH & COMMUNITY

Parish Calendar

November

8	Parish Breakfast	9:30 AM
11	Choir Practice	5:30 PM
14	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
15	Building Fund Collection	
	Family Catechesis	9:45 AM
18	Choir Practice	5:30 PM
21	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
22	National Needs Special Collection	
26	Thanksgiving Day Mass	9:00 AM
26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday Parish Office and Serra Gifts will be closed	
28	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
29	Family Catechesis	9:45 AM

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. Jesus, seeing the crowds of people who followed him, realized that they were tired and exhausted, lost and without a guide, and he felt deep compassion for them (cf. Mt 9:36). On the basis of this compassionate love he healed the sick who were presented to him (cf. Mt 14:14), and with just a few loaves of bread and fish he satisfied the enormous crowd (cf. Mt 15:37). What moved Jesus in all of these situations was nothing other than mercy, with which he read the hearts of those he encountered and responded to their deepest need. When he came upon the widow of Naim taking her son out for burial, he felt great compassion for the immense suffering of this grieving mother, and he gave back her son by raising him from the dead (cf. Lk 7:15). After freeing the demoniac in the country of the Gerasenes, Jesus entrusted him with this mission: "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you" (Mk 5:19)

SAVE THE DATE!



PARISH CHRISTMAS CONCERT & DINNER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Menu: Prime Rib, Chicken and all the fixings.

Concert -- 6 p.m.
Cocktails -- 7p.m.
Dinner -- 7:30p.m.

Concert features: Fr. Rich, Deacon Bob, Trinitarian Sisters and IC Choir
Tickets go on sale Nov. 22 after all Masses and in parish office.
Dinner sold out the last two years.
Cost: \$25, no host bar.
Tables reserved for parties of eight (8).

During this Thanksgiving and Christmas season let's take time to reflect on the many blessings we have received and how we can share with those in need by participating in the

Immaculate Conception
FOOD FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

Angels are needed to help families for Thanksgiving and Christmas through Catholic Charities.

Drop off the following *non-perishable* in Serra Hall after morning Masses on November 8th and November 15th before 12 noon for delivery November 15th.

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Cranberry Jelly or Sauce
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Boxed Stuffing
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Gravy
- Marshmallows
- Box of Brown Sugar
- Boxed Pie Crust
- Pumpkin Pie Filling



The Quarters & Cans Committee will provide grocery gift cards towards the purchase of a turkey.

God Bless. Quarters & Cans Committee

"Faith is what someone knows to be true, whether they believe it or not."
--Flannery O'Connor, "Wise Blood"

**SIN ALIENATES FROM THE CHURCH
TRUTH IN CHRIST IS THE REMEDY**

By Fr. Gerald E. Murray

I am here in Rome (with *TCT*'s editor-in-chief, Robert Royal) observing the Synod on the Family and providing commentary on various Catholic radio and television outlets. Much of the "media action" has occurred outside of the Synod Hall, which is to be expected given the decision not to publish summaries of the interventions by the individual Synod Fathers. Instead, the Holy See's press briefings describe various statements made at the Synod without identifying who said what. This means that Synod Fathers who choose to speak to the media on the record are the only attributable guides as to what is going on, at least as far as they are concerned.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, Australia gave an extensive interview to the *National Catholic Reporter*. He frankly admits that he is troubled by the uncertainty of the synodal procedures being used this time, and says that the *Instrumentum Laboris* is "weak" and "not a strong and rich enough document to sustain the entire work of the synod." Most other bishops have said the same.

Archbishop Coleridge forecasts where the Synod will go on the burning questions raised at the 2014 Synod: "I don't think the synod is going to reject what is regarded as fundamental Church teaching, by which I mean the untouchable trinity of marriage, Eucharist, and Church. Because if you touch one of those three, you touch them all. This is not marginal stuff. It is fundamentally important." This is reassuring, but at the same time jarring, given that it would even be thought possible that a gathering of Catholic bishops would be interested in touching or rejecting "fundamental Church teaching."

Archbishop Coleridge continues: "This is not going to happen, but I also think it's unthinkable that all we do at the end of this synod process is simply say and do what we have long said and done in the area of marriage and the family." He adds: "in many parts of the world we know that the language we speak is not communicating and we know that the ways in which we have acted are not touching the lives of many people and, in fact, are proving to be deeply alienating in the lives of many people who need help."

The argument here is disturbing in several ways. The clear and confident restatement of what the Church has always taught about marriage and family would be the most welcome and refreshing outcome of the Synod, given the relentlessly hostile cultural context in which we live, and the uncertainties experienced by the faithful following the publication of last year's notorious Interim Report. The endorsement by various influential churchmen of Cardinal Walter Kasper's proposal to allow divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive the Holy Eucharist has left many with the impression that the Church is not comfortable continuing to teach what she has always taught about adultery and indissolubility.

The parallel campaign in favor of granting some recognition of the supposed value in homosexual relationships has likewise caused scandal by equating marriage with a union based on the mortal sin of sodomy. To restate what the Church has always taught is no unnecessary or merely repetitive exercise. Rather, it is truly prophetic, and a timely call to renew our faith in God's saving plan for man and woman.

As to the effectiveness of the language of Church teaching ("the language we speak is not communicating"), some distinctions need to be made. Communication is ineffective when the words are not understood by the listener. Communication is effective when the words are understood, even if the listener rejects the truth of the message. As regards the moral doctrine of the Church, the problem for many today is not unintelligibility, i.e., they cannot figure out what the Church teaches. Rather, that doctrine is understood quite well – and rejected.

That is not a failure to communicate, but rather a successful imparting of unwelcome knowledge. The Church's mission is to call sinners to repentance, which starts with proclaiming the truths of the Gospel, however contrary they are to the lifestyle choices of those who hear that proclamation. Our absolute certainty in the truth of the Church's doctrine and our belief in the efficacy of Divine grace teach us that the anger or sadness produced in a person being challenged to live according to God's plan is salutary – and in many ways necessary.

Archbishop Coleridge claims not only that the language is not communicating, but that it is "deeply alienating in the lives of many people who need help." Here we come to the crucial question of what is being rejected by the alienated people who need help: are they rejecting a heretofore unrecognized misrepresentation of what Christ really said about marriage and sexual morality, which misrepresentation is found in the magisterium of St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI? This can hardly be the case.

The Church's teaching, as recently proclaimed by these popes, in clear language that is universally recognized as faithful to the Scriptures and to the Deposit of Faith, is not guilty of alienating people, who are being kept away from Christ by deficient language. ***Sin is what alienates.*** The language of *Familiaris Consortio* and of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* does not require modification. **What is needed is the clear recognition that the sadness produced by sin (i.e., alienation) clouds the mind (spiritual blindness) and leads men to rebel against God's plan for human fulfillment.**

The wording of Church teaching can, perhaps, be improved when it fails to accurately and confidently convey the beauty and truth of the Word of God. I submit that no such failure can be fairly ascribed to what the Church has repeatedly taught about God's plan for marriage and the family. ***Her unapologetic restatement of that teaching at the Synod would be a clarion call to embrace that plan.***

Therein lies the true remedy to alienation from God and the Church.