

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 15, 2015

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor
parish@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 11

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris
rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org; 858 490-8332

Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts
fielder@ic-sandiego.org 619-297-3426

Connie Rodriguez, Parish Secretary
parish@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 10

Marsha Long, Music
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

16	8 AM	<i>St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude</i> †Lizabeth Magy	RP
17	8 AM	<i>St. Elizabeth of Hungary</i> †Edna Moore	RE
18	8 AM	<i>The Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul</i> †Lizabeth Magy	RP
19	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Lizabeth Magy	RP
20	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> †Lizabeth Magy	RP
21	8 AM	<i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> †Lizabeth Magy	RP
22	5:15 PM	John Hunt, SI	RP
	8:30 AM	Lee Baesler, SI	RE
	10:00 AM	Penny Sampo, SI	RP
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RP
	5:15 PM	†Lizabeth Magy	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


16	Rev. Msgr. Raymond Kirk
17	Rev. Dennis Krouse
18	Rev. Msgr. Donald Kulleck
19	Rev. Charles LaCombe
20	Rev. Doan Lai
21	Rev. Khuyen Lai
22	Rev. Peter-Vu Lam

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: 1 Mc 1:1-63; Ps 119:53-61, 134-158; Lk 18:35-43
 Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10
 Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1-31; Ps 17:1-15; Lk 19:11-28
 Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1-15; Lk 19:41-44
 Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-59; (Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-12; Lk 19:45-48
 Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-19; Lk 20:27-40

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
--	---	---

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 Tullos, PFC Travis Vliet; & 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. SCPO Desiree S. Hayes, USN
---	---

†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 McMahon, 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
--	---

CONSCIENCE

FROM THE PASTOR

In *Letter to the Duke of Norfolk*, Blessed John Henry Newman suggests gamely that religion should never be the

subject matter for after-dinner social toasts. But, he says “if I am obliged to bring religion into after-dinner toasts, I shall drink—to the Pope, if you please—still, to Conscience first, and to the Pope afterwards.”

Newman promised to drink to conscience before the pope because he believed resolutely in the primacy of conscience. Newman understood that the conscience imposes an obligation—that personal integrity dictates a fundamental human duty to hear the interior voice of our conscience, and to follow its demands.

The primacy of conscience has become a matter of discussion at the Ordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family, now taking place in Rome. At issue is what believers should do when the conscience seems to suggest a deviance from Catholic doctrine, and how pastors, and bishops, should respond. This question is especially relevant to the debates regarding the reception of the Eucharist by Catholics divorced and remarried, and regarding the proper pastoral care of Catholics in same-sex relationships.

Newman believed that modernity had stopped listening to the real voice of conscience; instead citing the conscience to validate libertine choices. He said that a true sense of conscience had been “superseded by a counterfeit,” in order to assert the “right of self-will.”

When his contemporaries spoke of the conscience, Newman said that “they in no sense mean the rights of the Creator, nor the duty to Him, in thought and deed, of the creature; but the right of thinking, speaking, writing, and acting, according to their judgment or their humor, without any thought of God at all . . . [Conscience] becomes a license to take up any or no religion, to take up this or that and let it go again.”

Newman’s time is not much different from our own. And the “counterfeit” conscience seems today to have taken lodging among faithful believers, who are comfortable explaining that their integrity demands they reject the teachings of the Church. Today, in the life of the Church, many believers claim that their conscience contravenes the Gospel. That the conscience demands they use or prescribe contraceptives. Or ignore the obligations of matrimonial indissolubility. Or indulge disordered sexual inclinations.

But the conscience can never enjoin a person to act contrary to divine precept. In fact, the conscience is, as Newman wrote, “the voice of God,” a channel of divine communication, “the aboriginal vicar of Christ.” Newman understood that the conscience reveals the law of God—that it is a “prophet,” preparing the soul in the way of the Lord.

Newman also understood that pastors have an obligation to help the faithful hear the conscience, understand its voice, and respond to it. The conscience, Newman understood, is not easy to hear. Its voice, he wrote “may suffer refraction in passing into the intellectual medium of each.” And he knew that hearing the conscience requires holiness, and serious guidance.

Newman counseled that the man earnestly seeking to hear the conscience “must vanquish that mean, ungenerous, selfish, vulgar spirit of his nature, which, at the very first rumor of a command, places itself in opposition to the Superior who gives it, asks itself whether he is not exceeding his right, and rejoices, in a moral and practical matter to commence with skepticism. He must have no willful determination to exercise a right of thinking, saying, doing just what he pleases, the question of truth and falsehood . . . being simply discarded.” The task of pastors, as he understood, was to help their flocks in the task of self-examination, and true discernment. The task of pastors is to help the faithful understand that conscience can never contradict truth.

Pastoral guidance of that sort might seem severe, but, for Newman, it was wholly necessary. In Newman’s view, validating a false sense of the conscience would be a kind of pastoral negligence; it would rob the believer an opportunity to hear the voice of God.

Unfortunately, the synod’s discussions reveal that a counterfeit sense of the conscience seems to inform the view of some ecclesial leaders, who feel they must support decisions made “in conscience,” even when those decisions contravene revealed truth. This is nothing new. In the aftermath of *Humana Vitae*, pastoral support for the “counterfeit conscience” ran rampant. But the consequence of suppressing and ignoring the voice of God—the authentic conscience—is borne out in the empty pews and dwindling seminaries in the places where “conscientious dissent” was most rampant.

Today, at the synod, the Church discusses wholesale endorsement of the counterfeit conscience. Such endorsement would be disastrous—most especially for those who would be taught by their pastors to ignore the saving power of divine precept.

A Catholic who believes that conscience might really abrogate the Gospel has abandoned belief in the normativity of divine law, and its contribution to human flourishing. And a pastor who fails to instruct a misguided conscience seems to have forgotten that appeals to false conscience will offer no protection in the final judgment.

Of course, the process of forming the conscience takes time. A person who begins in opposition to the Gospel may well find himself becoming gratefully obedient. And pastors should assist with the process of discernment, however long it takes. But pastors should also be clear—certain decisions really can render a Catholic outside the bounds of ecclesial communion, with the implications that entails. Our decisions—even made with appeals to an unformed conscience—always have consequences in this life, and consequences in the next.

“Obedience to conscience leads to obedience to the Gospel,” Newman wrote, “which, instead of being something different altogether, is but the completion and perfection of that religion which natural conscience teaches.” The conscience is a gift, and a grace. Like Newman, before toasting anyone else, we should drink to that gift—and then we should help believers to hear the “still, small, voice,” of the Lord in our hearts.

James Conley bishop of Lincoln, Nebraska.

AROUND THE PARISH

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.

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.



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).

"Equality, rightly understood as our founding fathers understood it, leads to liberty and to the emancipation of creative differences; wrongly understood, as it has been so tragically in our time, it leads first to conformity and then to despotism."
- U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater



Baptism Schedule

Baptisms: November 15

There are no baptisms in December. The 2016 baptism schedule is available on the parish website (ic-sandiego.org).

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.

03-05 Mar ... Catholic Answers Conference

Hotel Marina Harbor Island with Bishop Michael Wall of Gallup New Mexico. Theme: **"Restoring Marriage today."** To register, e-mail conference@catholic.com or call 619-387-7200. Registration fees increase in January.

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

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 08, 2015

Total Collection: \$5,743.54
Envelopes: \$3,868.00 Plate: \$1,875.54
Total contributing households: 88

5:15 Sat	\$ 558.28
8:30 Sun	\$1809.00
10:00 Sun	\$1090.00
11:30 Sun	\$ 728.73
5:15 Sun	\$ 907.53
Mailed	\$ 650.00

EXPENSES

November 02-06, 2015

Copier Lease	\$265.28
Music	\$500.00
Pest Control	\$100.00
Postage	\$100.00
Property Tax	\$29.50
Supply Priests	\$1625.00

Total: \$ 2,619.78

22 NOV ... National Needs Collection

Sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to support The Catholic University of America, Catholic Communication Campaign, & Catholic Home Missions.

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

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. Visit the gift shop for holiday gift ideas.

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

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL:
LUMEN GENTIUM**

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

30. Having set forth the functions of the hierarchy, the Sacred Council gladly turns its attention to the state of those faithful called the laity. Everything that has been said above concerning the People of God is intended for the laity, religious and clergy alike. But there are certain things which pertain in a special way to the laity, both men and women, by reason of their condition and mission. Due to the special circumstances of our time the foundations of this doctrine must be more thoroughly examined. For their pastors know how much the laity contribute to the welfare of the entire Church. They also know that they were not ordained by Christ to take upon themselves alone the entire salvific mission of the Church toward the world. On the contrary they understand that it is their noble duty to shepherd the faithful and to recognize their ministries and charisms, so that all according to their proper roles may cooperate in this common undertaking with one mind. For we must all "practice the truth in love, and so grow up in all things in Him who is head, Christ. For from Him the whole body, being closely joined and knit together through every joint of the system, according to the functioning in due measure of each single part, derives its increase to the building up of itself in love".

PARISH & COMMUNITY

Parish Calendar

November

- 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

December

- 05 Quilting Group 9:30 AM
- 07 I.C. Seniors 11:00 AM

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

...9. From another parable, we cull an important teaching for our Christian lives. In reply to Peter’s question about how many times it is necessary to forgive, Jesus says: “I do not say seven times, but seventy times seventy times” (Mt 18:22). He then goes on to tell the parable of the “ruthless servant,” who, called by his master to return a huge amount, begs him on his knees for mercy. His master cancels his debt. But he then meets a fellow servant who owes him a few cents and who in turn begs on his knees for mercy, but the first servant refuses his request and throws him into jail. When the master hears of the matter, he becomes infuriated and, summoning the first servant back to him, says, “Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?” (Mt 18:33). Jesus concludes, “So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart” (Mt 18:35).

FAQ ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD OR RELIGIOUS LIFE

What is a seminary or house of formation like?

A seminary or house of formation is a place to prepare and train men for the priesthood while they continue to discern God’s call and will in their lives. In a house of formation, academic instructions takes place elsewhere, whereas in as a seminary is also an academic institutions and so like any other place of higher learning, one takes classes, and works toward receiving fully accredited college degrees. A college seminary focuses on undergraduate studies and so is very much like any other college in terms of curriculum. Usually seminarians are asked to seek an undergraduate degree in Philosophy. A major seminary is a Graduate school and so offers Masters degrees in Theology. The Diocese of San Diego utilizes the St. Francis Center for Priestly Formation to prepare candidates for entry into a major seminary. In addition to classes, there would be times of daily prayer (such as mass). At times things are very busy at the seminary (exam week!). Candidates have free time, which they may use to study, pray, exercise, play sports, read, watch TV, go to the movies, or simply hang out with their friends. There are also opportunities for pastoral and community service. Another part of seminary is formation which is the guidance and direction one receives from those running the seminary. This may be internal (e.g. Spiritual direction) or external (recognizing one’s gifts or areas of growth). In formation, we meet with others to help us understand our calling and to see if priesthood is for us.

**26 NOV ... Father Joe’s Villages
14th Annual Thanksgiving 5K Run/Walk**

Thanksgiving Day
Balboa Park
7:30am – 10am

For information or registration:
www.thanksgivingrun.org
Email: 5k@neighbor.org or call: (858)268-1250

All proceeds support the programs at
Father Joe’s Villages.

Support Group for Separated/Divorced

There is a support group 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 Jan Nadler PhD at 760-814-8604 or Frank Grant 760-533-1520 or email fwgrant@gmail.com.

ABSTINENCE EDUCATION: HOW TO COMBAT TODAY'S CLASSROOMS OF CARNAL SIN

— Courtney O'Brien

The syllabi for today's sexual education courses, many critics would argue, look like they were ripped out of Playboy magazine. R-rated films, free condoms, and sexual demonstrations are all deemed appropriate lessons for schoolchildren by today's classroom standards. Leaving whatever morals they are taught at home, young adults are told to embrace the notion that they are sexual beings by their educators. Now, parents are wondering if there's any way to halt this dangerous agenda.

Medical professionals who are just as concerned as parents believe they may have the answer to sex ed's dangerous "it's up to you" mantra: abstinence education. Rooted in science, abstinence-only programs provide accurate information about sexual activity that is often too inconvenient to be included in comprehensive sex ed. Perhaps more importantly, abstinence-only courses teach the *consequences* of intercourse, emphasizing that refraining from sex is the only way to avoid dangerous physical and mental complications.

These courses, they hope, can empower parents in their battle to protect their children's consciences against today's classrooms of carnal sin.

Sex Ed as a Social Movement

In a phone interview with Townhall, Dr. Miriam Grossman, author of two books on the harms of sex ed, explained why she refers to comprehensive sexual education as an ideology.

"The problem is, in these so called comprehensive sex education curricula...these curricula are not medically accurate or up to date," she said. *"They're based on an ideology of inclusiveness, non discrimination, and a view of how society needs to change. People need to be open and willing to experiment with their sexuality. They are based on the premise that we are sexual from cradle to grave. That children are sexual and that sexual behavior is healthy and a part of normal adolescence."*

Educators feed into this sexual philosophy by routinely providing students with information about intercourse, handing out condoms, and even, occasionally, taking them on field trips to adult novelty stores. A private school in Minnesota, for instance, thought it appropriate to take a busload of middle and high school-aged students to a place called Smitten Kitten. You can't make this up.

"What I saw happening on our trip, I thought it was beautiful because kids could talk to these sex educators without any shame, without any fear," said Starni Hedges, the director of the school's sex education department, reports the Star Tribune.

Pornography was "off limits" to the students, she added, but sex toys and other products were visible.

Hedges insisted the field trip offered students access to educators and products that could be used to practice safer sex. Some students even bought condoms.

While such trips are rare, the agenda is the same throughout the country. In New York City, the sexualized culture is especially potent. Just a glimpse at Grossman's comprehensive NYC Sexual Education report is enough to send chills down many parents' spines.

In her study, Grossman discovered that New York educators are teaching students that intercourse with a condom is just as safe as no intercourse at all.

The dangers of sexual education aren't limited to what children are taught, but also in what information these programs decide to omit. New York educators, according to the report, are downplaying the risks of the Human Papillomavirus, and not properly educating students on the dangers of STDs like chlamydia. Sex ed teaches students that chlamydia is a dangerous consequence that can be treated, yet the educators barely acknowledge that the antibiotics are worthless if the damage is already done.

More proof this bias is being reported on a national scale is evident in a new report from the National Abstinence Education Association. In the survey, nearly 4 in 10 teens reported that sexual education programs, like those currently funded under the Obama administration's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, are "encouraging teens to have sex," in many cases even more so than their dating partners.

So, who is behind these dangerous programs? For years, the major culprits have been Planned Parenthood (surprise!), Advocates for Youth, and the Sexual Information and Education Council of the United States.

The third, and what appears to be most recent, edition of the SIECUS guidelines for educators teaching kindergarten through 12th grade, indicates the following: "Sexuality is a natural and healthy part of life." As for Planned Parenthood, it's not unusual for a representative from the abortion giant to lead a sex ed class at your local school. In one high school in California, an educator reportedly handed students worksheets that read, "Sex Check! Are You Ready for Sex?" which asked the young teens very intimate anatomical questions. As you can guess, parents were not pleased.

It seems Planned Parenthood's hyper sexualized agenda is even evident in middle schools, as they promote programs like Get Real.

"Many public schools have been on an agenda to give children sex education at odds with the values of their parents," John-Henry Westen, editor-in-chief of LifeSiteNews, an outlet that is "dedicated to issues of culture, life and family," said in an email.

"In addition to the offense against parents' rights this represents, it also proposes a danger to children who may experiment sexually with harmful behaviors. Sowing discord in families for the sake of your pet sexual agenda is shameful and harmful to society," he added.

Waiting: A New Approach

Valerie Huber is the president of the National Abstinence Education Association, an organization founded in 2006. She shared her concerns that 95 percent of students are hearing lessons that "normalize sexual behavior." Much of that has to do with the Obama administration's decision to bankroll sex education.

As for the mainstream media, they don't help, either. Sexual promiscuity is glorified on both the small and big screens.

"Young people get left behind in this debate," she said.

Accepting the fact that they can't bar sex ed from schools, some activists have embraced an alternative: abstinence education. Or, as Huber calls it, Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA.)

Some may think it's naive to believe young adults will listen to calls for abstinence, especially in a culture that promotes sex, but the results speak for themselves.

Huber directed me to NAEA's "Abstinence Works" report that focused on 25 independent studies throughout the country. Each offered unique proof for the effectiveness of abstinence-only programs.

Let's put a spotlight on just a couple of the NAEA programs. In Arkansas, Sex Can Wait is a 5-week abstinence education curriculum consisting of 23 lessons at the upper elementary level and 24 lessons at the middle and high school level, according to the report. It includes three specific lessons: Knowing Myself (self-esteem, reproductive anatomy and physiology, values and decision making), Relating to Others (communication skills) and Planning My Future (goal setting and life planning).

The program results were described as "significant." At the 18-month follow-up with the middle school, there were statistically significant differences between the treatment group and comparison group, resulting in fewer reports of participation in sexual intercourse ever, and in the last month. At the high school level, students in the Sex Can Wait group were also less likely to report participation in sexual intercourse ever, and in the last month.

Worth the Wait, a program in Texas, had similar success. Researchers noticed a considerable drop in teen pregnancy. The decline was "singularly dramatic" for the county with the longest period of intervention, with the pregnancy rate declining from 34.8 to 16.1. The rate for the whole area involved in the program saw a decline of almost one-third, from 35.1 to 23.8.

These NAEA projects prove that chastity can be a popular notion if taught in a way that boosts a student's self-confidence and teaches them that waiting is the safest, and most rewarding, choice. Huber said her organization is currently working to earn more funding from the federal government.

Students shouldn't have to hide their classroom materials in their backpacks. Parents should be encouraged to know an alternative to sex ed exists, is gaining ground, and is generating some positive results. Thanks to abstinence-only programs, classrooms can again be age-appropriate centers of learning.