

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

December 06, 2015

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

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris
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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

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | | |
|----|----------|---|----|
| 07 | 8 AM | <i>St. Ambrose</i> †Edna Moore | RP |
| | 7PM | †Greg Wenker | RP |
| 08 | 8AM | <i>The Immaculate Conception</i> †Edna Moore | RE |
| | 7PM | Priest's Intentions | RP |
| 09 | 8 AM | <i>St. Juan Digo Cuahlttoatzin</i> †Margaret Meade | RP |
| 10 | 8 AM | <i>Advent Weekday</i> †Angela Renee Kresge | RP |
| 11 | 8 AM | <i>St. Damasus I</i> †Edna Moore | RP |
| 12 | 8 AM | <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> †Rev. Ted Gryga | RP |
| | 5:15PM | †Emile Phelisse | RP |
| 13 | 8:30 AM | †Dale Q. Pearson | RP |
| | 10:00 AM | Spera Family, SI | RE |
| | 11:30 AM | †William Kennedy | RP |
| | 5:15 PM | †Ignacio Rodriguez & Javier Zamudio | RP |

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

December: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Evangelization: That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain 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

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 07 | Rev. Reynaldo Manahan |
| 08 | Rev. Eduardo Giovann Manalac, SRC |
| 09 | Rev. Elmer Mandac |
| 10 | Rev. Herman Manuel, SVD |
| 11 | Rev. Delfin Manzano |
| 12 | Rev. Victor Maristela |
| 13 | Rev. Ramon Marrufo |

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Gn 3:9-20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-12; Lk 1:26-38
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-10; Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1-13; Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-6; Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Zec 2:14-17; (Ps) Jdt 13:18-19; Lk 1:26-38

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 | Linda Lee |
| Lydia Castillo Herrera | Amparo Valenzuela |
| Margaret Kelly | Bob & Robby Witt |
| Patricia Kennedy | Phyllis Altomare |
| Dorothy Kleint | Alicia Ambrose |
| Deena Marchiano | Shirley Pearson |
| Dena Mendoza | Inez Cerda Bull |
| Jean Miller | Rose McBrien |
| Patricia O'Grady | Cosmo Busalacchi |
| Mary Jane Tiernan | Maria Casanova |
| Marguerite Vorst | Steve Stone |
| Marie Whitman | Maria Esperanza Kramer |
| Martha Zamudio | Joan Busalacchi |
| Carlos Amaya | Georgiana Ottenheimer |
| Fred Levine | Mark Brandon. |
| Mike Rodriguez | Jeanne Pontius |
| Lisa Becerra | Esther Salazar |
| Maguire Fitzpatrick | Joane Anderson |
| Tony Jenkins | Janet Meyers |
| Peter Nalwalker | Yolanda Garcia |
| Frank Garay | Maria Diaz |
| Frances Garcia | Susan Rykowski |
| Socorro Pacheco | Elias Barajas |



PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY

Jesus protect all who serve our country.

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sgt. Ahmed John Alexander | Robert Clinton Long, MC2 |
| Natalie Augustine | Sgt. Adriana Matizel |
| Major Jerry Bloomquist | Wendell Miculob |
| Col. Mike Bodkin | LTJG Joe F. Moralez ,USN; |
| Danny Carpenter, USMC | LCPL Matthew A. Pena |
| LTJG Joseph Colangelo, USN | Sgt. Richard Pierce |
| Cpl. Samuel James Comer | Sgt. William Paul Powers and |
| Daniel Dinglebeck, USN PFC | Cinco |
| David Eley, USMC | CPL Wilson Santiago |
| Micah Emery | Alfred Tello |
| Sgt. Christopher Escalona | Ricky Thibeault |
| Capt. Pedro Esquivel | Tony Tulloss |
| 1Lt. Cortez Fabia | PFC Travis Vliet; & 3rd |
| Juan Carlos Galazza | Marine Aircraft Wing. |
| SSGT. Vincent Charles Lucario | 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 | Gustavo Sosa |
| Joan Schmitt | Floyd Watson |
| Robert McMahan | Iola Torre |
| David Diaz | Emilie Graham |
| Patrick Piggot | Angela Cordova |
| Rodney Serrano | Ramiro Moreno |
| Concepción Garza | Alexander Toczko |
| Richard Solís Moreno | Jeannette Toczko |
| Alvin Weaver | José Teofilo Solorio |
| William Bethel | Ray & Betty Jackson |
| Lillian Sinclair | Denise Cooney |
| Olga Hritz | Joanne Mangiameli |
| Imelda Hoeckelmann | Edna Moore |
| Angelina Olivarez | Paul Ramirez |
| Alice Perry | Isabella Asaro |
| Joseph Moreno | Maude Laracy |
| Louie Serrano | Helen Peña |

**LET US CONFESS OUR FAITH IN GOD BY
DEEDS**

FROM THE PASTOR

— *From a homily written in
the second century*

Great is the mercy that Jesus Christ has shown us. The first benefit that we owe to his mercy is that we who are living do not sacrifice to dead gods or worship them, but have, through Christ, attained a knowledge of the Father. What else is knowledge of the Father but the recognition of his through whom this knowledge comes to us? He himself declares: *Everyone who acknowledges me, I in my turn will acknowledge in the presence of the Father.* This then will be our reward if we acknowledge him through whom we have been saved. But how shall we show that we acknowledge him? By doing what he says, by not disobeying his commands, and by honoring him not only with our lips but with our whole heart and our whole mind. For he says in Isaiah: *This people pays me lip service, but its heart is far from me.*

Let us not only call him Lord, for that will not save us. *Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will be saved, he warns, but only the man who does what is right.* So then, brothers, let us show our faith in him by our deeds, by loving one another, by not committing adultery, by not finding fault with one another, or being envious. Instead, let us be chaste, merciful and kind. We should also have compassion for one another, and not be covetous. We have to prove that we believe in him by performing such actions as these and by avoiding whatever is contrary to them, since we fear God rather than men. Should we fail to do so, we have the Lord's warning: *If you do not keep my commandments, even though I had pressed you to my heart, I will thrust you away from me and say to you: Out of my sight, you whose deeds are evil; you are complete strangers to me.*

Therefore, my brothers, let us enter the lists in the knowledge that the contest is imminent. Many men travel far to contend for a crown that soon fades, yet not all of them win, but only those who have strained every nerve and completed fairly. Let us so contend that we may all be crowned. Let us run a straight course in the race of the Christian life, setting out in great numbers to take part in it, and then striving for the crown with all our might. Even if we are not all able to win, at least let us draw near to victory.

Now we must surely know that even when the contest is for a wreath that lasts but a day, if anyone is found to be breaking the rules, he is flogged and driven off the racecourse. What do you suppose, then, will be the fate of the man who breaks the rules in the contest of the Christian life? Of those who have not kept the seal of their baptism unbroken Scripture says: *The worm does not die and the fire is never extinguished. They will be a spectacle to all men.*

ON THE CREED

—*Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop*

In learning and professing the faith, you must accept and retain only the Church's present tradition, confirmed as it is by the Scriptures. Although not everyone is able to read the Scriptures, some because they have never learned to read, others because their daily activities keep them from such study, still so that their souls will not be lost through ignorance, we have gathered together the whole of the faith in a few concise articles.

Now I order you to retain this creed for your nourishment through life and never to accept any alternative, not even if I myself were to change and say something contrary to what I am now teaching, not even if some angel of contradiction, changed into an angel of light, tried to lead you astray. For *even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which you have now received, let him be accursed in your sight.*

So for the present be content to listen to the simple words of the creed and to memorize them; at some suitable time you can find the proof of each article in the Scriptures. This summary of the faith was not composed at man's whim; the most important sections were chosen from the whole Scripture to constitute and complete a comprehensive statement of the faith. Just as the mustard seed contains in a small grain many branches, so this brief statement of the faith keeps in its heart, as it were, all the religious truth to be found in Old and New Testament alike. That is why, my brothers, you must consider and preserve the traditions you are now receiving. Inscribe them across your heart.

Observe them scrupulously, so that no enemy may rob any of you in an idle and heedless moment; let no heretic deprive you of what has been given to you. Faith is rather like depositing in a bank the money entrusted to you, and God will surely demand an account of what you have deposited. In the words of the Apostle:

I charge you before the God who gives life to all things, and before Christ who bore witness under Pontius Pilate in a splendid declaration, to keep unblemished this faith you have received, until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

You have now been given life's great treasure; when he comes, the Lord will ask for what he has entrusted to you. At the appointed time he will reveal himself, for he is the blessed and sole Ruler, King of kings, Lord of lords. He alone is immortal, dwelling in unapproachable light. No man has seen or ever can see him. To him be glory, honor and power for ever and ever. Amen.

AROUND THE PARISH




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

08-DEC ... Immaculate Conception
 Holy Day of Obligation
 Vigil Mass: Mon. Dec. 7, 7:00 p.m.
 Mass: Tues. Dec. 8, 8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

13 DEC ... 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, December 13 at 9:45 right after the 8:30 AM Mass. All children must be accompanied by their parents at each session.

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE



The holidays are quickly approaching and Immaculate Conception is organizing a TOY DRIVE. At this time of gift giving, let us remember those less fortunate.

We are asking families at Immaculate Conception to donate new, unwrapped toys for children ages 0-17. Gift cards in increments of \$25.00 are also welcomed. Your donations can be dropped off in Serra Hall after Sunday morning Masses, no later than 12:00 noon. The last day to donate is December 13.

Toys will be delivered to Catholic Charities on December 13. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY**

15 DEC ... ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
 Penance service will be held in the church on Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.

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.

07 DEC ... I.C. SENIORS ...
 Seniors, join us for lunch at 11 a.m. in the hall. Santa Sophia Academy Choir & Handbells will provide Christmas music. Only \$5 per person for a delicious hot lunch.



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 on sale 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).

LAS POSADAS HOLIDAY EVENT
Dec. 12, 2015 -- 5 p.m.

Las Posadas is a long-standing tradition in Old Town, a celebratory day that everyone can enjoy. The Las Posadas procession is a walking reenactment of the biblical story of Mary and Joseph's search for a birthplace for the Christ child. Everyone is invited to join the candlelit procession and sing traditional holiday songs in both Spanish and English as the players go from inn to inn, asking for symbolic lodging. The procession culminates with a live nativity scene in front of Casa de Estudillo.

At end of the festival, a bonfire will be lit in the middle of the state park with a piñata-breaking party following the Las Posadas procession at 6 p.m. Stores and museums within the state park will have extended hours until 8 p.m. that evening.

St. John Paul II, "the freedom of the individual finds its basis in man's transcendent dignity: a dignity given to him by God the Creator and Father, in whose image and likeness he was created." There is no freedom without truth, and no truth without freedom.

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 29, 2015

Total Collection: \$4,359.36
Envelopes: \$3,205.65 Plate: \$1,153.71
Total contributing households: 89

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 5:15 Sat | \$ 424.50 |
| 8:30 Sun | \$1302.02 |
| 10:00 Sun | \$ 973.07 |
| 11:30 Sun | \$ 572.64 |
| 5:15 Sun | \$ 770.13 |
| Mailed | \$ 317.00 |

EXPENSES

November 23-27, 2015

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Diocesan Tax | \$4269.14 |
| Music | \$700.00 |
| Organ Repair | \$357.21 |
| Payroll (incl. taxes) | \$3060.11 |
| Payroll Service | \$46.45 |
| Pension (employee) | \$363.45 |

Total: \$ 8,796.36

National Needs Collection:
\$216.00

09-Dec...Bible Study

Join Fr. Richard for "The Gospels" on Wed., Dec. 9,
in the bride's room of the parish hall at 9 a.m.

**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:
DIGNITATIS HUMANE**

MAN AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

On their part, all men are bound to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and His Church, and to embrace the truth they come to know, and to hold fast to it.

This Vatican Council likewise professes its belief that it is upon the human conscience that these obligations fall and exert their binding force. The truth cannot impose itself except by virtue of its own truth, as it makes its entrance into the mind at once quietly and with power.

Religious freedom, in turn, which men demand as necessary to fulfill their duty to worship God, has to do with immunity from coercion in civil society. Therefore it leaves untouched traditional Catholic doctrine on the moral duty of men and societies toward the true religion and toward the one Church of Christ.

Over and above all this, the council intends to develop the doctrine of recent popes on the inviolable rights of the human person and the constitutional order of society.

2. This Vatican Council declares that the human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits.

The council further declares that the right to religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person as this dignity is known through the revealed word of God and by reason itself. This right of the human person to religious freedom is to be recognized in the constitutional law whereby society is governed and thus it is to become a civil right.

PARISH & COMMUNITY

Parish Calendar

December

| | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 07 | I.C. Seniors | 11:00 AM |
| 08 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception (See Advent-Christmas Schedule below.) | |
| 09 | The Gospels | 9:00 AM |
| | Choir Practice | 5:30 PM |
| 10 | Harp Meditation | 2:00 PM |
| 11 | Christmas Concert & Dinner | 6:00 PM |
| 12 | Quilting Group | 9:30 AM |
| 13 | Family Catechesis | 9:45 AM |
| 15 | Penance Service | 7:00 PM |
| 16 | Choir Practice | 5:30 PM |
| 17 | Harp Meditation | 2:00 PM |
| 19 | Quilting Group | 9:30 AM |
| 23 | Choir Practice | 5:30 PM |

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

10. Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church’s very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love. The Church “has an endless desire to show mercy.”[8] Perhaps we have long since forgotten how to show and live the way of mercy. The temptation, on the one hand, to focus exclusively on justice made us forget that this is only the first, albeit necessary and indispensable step. But the Church needs to go beyond and strive for a higher and more important goal. On the other hand, sad to say, we must admit that the practice of mercy is waning in the wider culture. In some cases the word seems to have dropped out of use. However, without a witness to mercy, life becomes fruitless and sterile, as if sequestered in a barren desert. The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more.

ADVENT - CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 06 | Vespers | 3:00 p.m. |
| 07 | Vigil Mass | 7:00 p.m. |
| 08 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception Masses | 8:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. |
| 09 | The Gospels | 9:00 a.m. |
| 15 | Penance Service | 7:00 p.m. |
| 24 | Christmas Vigil Mass | 5:15 p.m. |
| 25 | Christmas Masses | 12:00 Midnight, 8:30 ,10:00, & 11:30 a.m. No 5:15 Mass |
| 26 | Latin Mass | 10:00 a.m. |

JANUARY

| | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------|
| 01 | Solemnity of Mary | 8:00 a.m. |
|----|-------------------|-----------|

FAQ ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD OR RELIGIOUS LIFE

How long does it take to become a diocesan priest?

Generally it takes five to six years after college or nine years after high school to become a diocesan priest, the same as for many professions. The actual amount depends on how much and the type of education you have received prior to entering the seminary. Your Vocation Director can let you know exactly how long it should take in your specific case.

WE ARE CATHOLIC. WELCOME HOME.

Visit www.catholicscomehome.org.

29-30 JAN--BIBLICAL STUDIES

The 13th Annual West Coast Biblical Studies Conference will be hosted at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish in San Diego on Jan. 29-30, 2016. Featuring Scott Hahn, John Bergsma, Michael Barber, and John Kincaid, the conference will focus on The Bible, the Family, and the New Evangelization. Registration is \$40 by Dec. 15 at www.jpccatholic.com, and space is limited.

**CAUTION: DISHONEST MERCY
IS HELPFUL TO NO ONE**

—*Archbishop Charles Chaput*

True mercy, and trust in the transformative power of God's grace are key to helping divorced-and-remarried Catholics, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia has said in a critique of proposals to admit them to sacramental Communion without a change in their lives.

"Ironically, a pastoral strategy that minimizes sin in the name of mercy cannot be merciful, because it is dishonest," the archbishop said in a December 2015 essay for the U.S. journal *First Things*.

Authentic mercy is evangelical and believes "God's grace has the power to transform us." This is relevant to the Church's pastoral response to the divorced-and-remarried, he maintained.

"The divorced and civilly remarried remain welcome members of the believing community. But neither can the Church ignore the Word of God on the permanence of marriage, nor mitigate the consequences of the choices that grown people freely make," Archbishop Chaput said.

The archbishop recounted the Gospel of John's account of Christ and the woman caught in adultery, who was about to be stoned. All persons need God's mercy, including those who consider themselves righteous, the archbishop explained.

"Only Jesus can free us. Only he could have justly cast the first stone. But he didn't, saying instead, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again'."

"God does not owe us forgiveness or redemption—or anything else. Nor does God's mercy license us to continue in sin," he said, repeating: "It demands a response to 'go, and do not sin again'."

"In forgiving the woman, Jesus does by grace what the moral law cannot do. He gives her a new life in God's friendship," Archbishop Chaput added.

He reflected upon proposals to admit to sacramental Communion divorced-and-civilly-remarried persons who have not made a change to their lives and where annulments "are not deemed possible."

"According to such proposals, couples who are sexually active with people to whom they are not really married in the eyes of the Church might receive the Eucharist even without confession of their sins, and without seeking to be chaste while living as 'brother and sister,'" he said.

Such proposals are advanced as "expressions of mercy" and draw strength from "the fact that many of the people they seek to help are decent, well-intending persons tied to complex new relationships, often with children."

Archbishop Chaput rejected claims that Church practice punishes and excludes those in irregular unions. He said the Church "cannot confirm human beings in patterns of behavior that separate them from

God and remain faithful to her own mission at the same time."

The archbishop said Christ's mercy is not a "judgment against all judgments." The damage of sin "cannot easily be undone – adultery being a perfect example." However, the encounter between Christ and the woman is a reminder that "apart from God's grace, all of us are misshapen by the distorted desires of our hearts."

He said truth is essential to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When truthfully received, the sacrament is "a steady path to transformation and holiness."

"A sincere movement toward God always entails a movement away from sin and error," he continued.

"The Church can be truthful without being merciful, like the scribes who wished to stone the adulteress who violated the Mosaic law. But the Church cannot be merciful without being truthful."

"A pastoral approach that ignores this truth out of a thinly veiled pastoral despair and accommodationism will result in less faith, not more," the archbishop said.

"What ensues from an untruthful teaching about and practice of the sacraments is not a more zealous evangelical life but its collapse," he continued, suggesting this has happened in parts of Europe that have departed from Catholic teaching.

Archbishop Chaput noted Pope Francis' exhortation that Christians accompany others in "the tangled realities of their lives."

"This is a key aspect of mercy and a vital expression of Christian love. Sin's bonds are strong, and God's grace often unwinds them slowly," he said. "Sometimes, the most important word that another person needs to hear is best whispered gently and patiently. We must be close to those whom we love if we're to do our part in lifting them up to the fullness of the Gospel."

The archbishop warned that a "therapeutic age" misunderstands this effort and tries to affirm people "indiscriminately as they are."

"This is not mercy. God's mercy always moves us forward and upward. No sin places us beyond God's forgiveness. His mercy endures forever," he said. He added: "it would be the opposite of mercy to say 'come' and then imply that we need not move, need not step out of our present romance with sin and toward obedience to God's life-giving righteousness, the law of Jesus Christ."

"Christians are sent into the world bearing the imprint of the mercy of the Cross on our lives," he said. This mercy is the preaching of "the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ." This is not "affirmation" but something more powerful: redemption.

"The Church in this Year of Mercy invites us to encounter anew the love of our Redeemer. She opens her doors to the world and invites all to enter and join the marriage feast of the Lamb," the archbishop concluded.