

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

**December 20, 2015**

**Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor**

[pastor@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:parish@ic-sandiego.org) 619-295-4141 x 11

**Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris**

[rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org](mailto:rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org); 858 490-8332

**Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts**

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**Marsha Long, Music**

[pictures@marshalong.com](mailto: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](mailto:rfitzmor@diocese-sdiego.org).

**Weddings:** By appointment only. Arrangements must be made at least **one year** in advance. Please contact the office

**Funerals:** *For arrangements, please call the parish office.*



**History of Immaculate Conception Parish**

It was here in Old Town that 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

21	8AM	<b>St. Peter Canisius</b> †Bruce Whatley	RP
22	8AM	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b> †Edna Moore	RE
23	8AM	<b>St. John of Kanty</b> Esther Salazar, SI	RP
24	8AM	<b>Late Advent Weekday</b> Sr. Shaun Marie	RP
25	5:15	†Edna Moore	RP
	12:00 AM	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b> People of Immaculate Conception	RP
	8:30 AM	†Edna Moore	RE
26	10:00 AM	†Helene Smith Driscoll	RP
	11:30 AM	Harrison Moore Family, SI	RP
	8AM	<b>St. Stephen</b> †Martin Morris	RP
	5:15PM	†Maria Cessalia	RP
	8:30 AM	Elias Barajas, SI	RP
27	10:00 AM	†Fabiana & Maria Gaitan Diaz	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 PM	Gregory & Johnna Kresge, SI	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 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

21	Rev. Peter McGuine
22	Rev. Edward McNulty
23	Rev. Patrick McPartland
24	Rev. Edward McGuinness
25	Rev. Mark Menegatti, OSA
26	Rev. Christopher Merris
27	Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis

## PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18; Ps 33:2-21; Lk 1:39-45  
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1-8; Lk 1:46-56  
 Wednesday: Mal 3:1-24; Ps 25:4-14; Lk 1:57-66  
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-16; Ps 89:2-29; Lk 1:67-79  
 Friday: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18  
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-59; Ps 31:3-17; Mt 10:17-22

## 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	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	Susan Rykowski
Frances Garcia	Elias Barajas
Socorro Pacheco	Shirley Ilog
Linda Lee	Olivia Ingram



## 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. Morales, 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	Floyd Watson
Joan Schmitt	Iola Torre
Robert McMahan	Emilie Graham
David Diaz	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
Gustavo Sosa	Lydia Castillo Herrera

**WONDERFUL ARE GOD'S GIFTS**—*Saint Clement I, Pope***FROM THE PASTOR**

Beloved, how blessed and wonderful are God's gifts! There is life everlasting, joy in righteousness, truth in freedom, faith, confidence, and self-control in holiness. And these are the gifts that we can comprehend; what of all the others that are being prepared for those who look to him. Only the Creator, the Father of the ages, the All-Holy, knows their grandeur and their loveliness. And so we should strive to be found among those who wait for him so that we may share in these promised gifts. And so we should strive to be found among those who wait for him so that we may share in these promised gifts. And how is this to be, beloved brothers? It will come about if by our faith our minds remain fixed on God; if we aim at what is pleasing and acceptable to him, if we accomplish what is in harmony with his faultless will and follow the path of truth, rejecting all injustice, viciousness, covetousness, quarrels, malice and deceit.

This is the path, beloved, by which we find our salvation, Jesus Christ, the high priest of our sacrifices, the defender and ally in our helplessness. It is through him that we gaze on the highest heaven, through him we can see the reflection of God's pure and sublime countenance, through him the eyes of our hearts have been opened, through him our foolish and darkened understanding opens toward the light, and through him the Lord has willed that we should taste everlasting knowledge. *He reflects God's majesty and is as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.*

Let us then serve in his army, brothers, following his blameless commands with all our might. The great cannot exist without the small nor the small without the great; they blend together to their mutual advantage. Take the body, for example. The head is nothing without the feet, just as the feet are nothing without the head. The smallest parts of our body are necessary and valuable to the whole. All work together and are mutually subject for the preservation of the whole body.

Our entire body, then will be preserved in Christ Jesus, and each of us should be subject to his neighbor in accordance with the grace given to each. The stronger should care for the weak, and the weak should respect the stronger. The wealthy should give to the poor, and the poor man should thank God that he has sent him someone to supply his needs. The wise should manifest their wisdom not in words but in good deeds, and the humble should not talk about their own humility, but allow others to bear witness to it. Since, therefore, we have all this from him, we ought to thank him for it all. Glory to him for ever. Amen.

**YOUR KINGDOM COME**—*Origen, priest*

*The kingdom of God, in the words of our Lord and Savior, does not come for all to see; nor shall they say: Behold, here it is, or behold, there it is; but the kingdom of God is within us, for the word of God is very near, in our mouth and in our heart.* Thus it is clear that he who prays for the coming of God's kingdom prays rightly to have it within himself, that there it might grow and bear fruit and become perfect. For God reigns in each of his holy ones. Anyone who is holy obeys the spiritual laws of God, who dwells in him as in a well-ordered city. The Father is present in the perfect soul, and with him Christ reigns, according to the words: *We shall come to him and make our home with him.*


Thus the kingdom of God within us, as we continue to make progress, will reach its highest point when the Apostle's words are fulfilled, and Christ, having subjected all his enemies to himself, will hand over his *kingdom to God the Father, that God may be all in all.* Therefore, let us pray unceasingly with that disposition of soul which the Word may make divine, saying to our Father who is in heaven: *Hallowed be your name; your kingdom come.*

Note this too about the kingdom of God. It is not a *sharing of justice with iniquity, nor a society of light with darkness, nor a meeting of Christ with Belial.* The kingdom of God cannot exist alongside the reign of sin.

Therefore, if we wish God to reign in us, in no way *should sin reign in our mortal body*; rather we should *mortify our members which are upon the earth* and bear fruit in the Spirit. There should be in us a kind of spiritual paradise where God may walk and be our sole ruler with his Christ. In us the Lord will sit at the right hand of that spiritual power which we wish to receive. And he will sit there until all his enemies who are within us become his footstool, and every principality, power and virtue in us is cast out.

All this can happen in each one of us, and the last enemy, death, can be destroyed; then Christ will say in us: *O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory?* And so what is corruptible in us must be clothed with holiness and *incorruptibility*; death will be cast out, and our mortality will be clad with the Father's *immortality*, so that, as God reigns in us, we may truly enjoy the blessings of rebirth and resurrection.

**AROUND THE PARISH**



**2016 Baptism Schedule**  
**January 05 Class\***  
**January 10 Baptism**  
 Schedule is available on the parish website (ic-sandiego.org).  
 \*Note change to Tuesday

**27 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 27 at 9:45 right after the 8:30 AM Mass. All children must be accompanied by their parents at each session.



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Fr. Richard and the staff of Immaculate Conception Parish wish you and your loved ones a Christmas season filled with peace and goodwill.  
 May God continue to bless us all with his healing love throughout the year.

*Christmas Blessings*

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**


24 DEC	5:15 PM	Vigil Mass for families and children
25 DEC	12:00 AM	MIDNIGHT MASS
25 DEC	8:30 AM	CHRISTMAS MASS
25 DEC	10:00 AM	CHRISTMAS MASS
25 DEC	11:30 AM	CHRISTMAS MASS
	NO 5:15 PM	MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
26 DEC	10:00 AM	TRADITIONAL MASS IN LATIN

Weekend following Christmas = regular Mass schedule

01 JAN 8:00 AM SOLEMNITY MOTHER OF GOD  
*obligation to attend is lifted*

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.” — *G. K. Chesterton*

**CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE**



Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and friends, we were able to provide toys to the children served by Catholic Charities.

The Quarters and Cans Committee was able to provide grocery gift cards to needy families through Catholic Charities.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY**

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

**DONATION CHECKS...**

Please remember:

- 1) Use black or blue ink only when writing checks. Use of red or other ink colors requires special handling by the bank.
- 2) All checks should be made payable to Immaculate Conception Church. Please avoid writing checks to Parish Outreach, Quarters & Cans. etc. as all accounts for parish organizations are in the name of the parish.
- 3) For special diocesan collections (Peter's Pence, Mission Sunday, etc.), please write checks payable to Immaculate Conception or to Diocese of San Diego. Checks payable to Immaculate Conception are totaled and one parish check is sent to the Diocese.

**2015 Donations**

Letters substantiating tax-deductible donations to Immaculate Conception Church will be mailed out the week of January 25.

Letters will be mailed out to individuals or families whose donations totaled \$250 or more for the year 2015.

Should you have any questions after receiving your letter, please contact Connie at the parish office, 619-295-4141, ext. 10.

**AROUND THE PARISH**

**Gifts of Treasure**

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

**December 13, 2015**

**Total Collection: \$4,67.90**  
**Envelopes: \$2961.00 Plate: \$1,506.90**  
**Total contributing households: 98**

5:15 Sat	\$ 489.02
8:30 Sun	\$1141.20
10:00 Sun	\$ 986.00
11:30 Sun	\$ 587.49
5:15 Sun	\$1014.19
Mailed	\$ 250.00

**EXPENSES**  
 Dec 7-11, 2015

Copier	\$117.50
Music	\$700.00
Office Supplies	\$191.24
Payroll (incl. taxes)	\$3141.53
Payroll Service	\$46.45
Pension (employee)	\$372.52
Postage	\$ 33.86
Supply Priests	\$800.00
Telephone	\$258.34

**Total: \$ 5,661.44**

*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.

In addition to rosaries, religious medals, prayer/novena books, the gift shop also offers a limited number of outdoor items and religious music CDs.

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

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL:  
 DIGNITATIS HUMANAE**

**MAN'S DIGNITY AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

... 3. Truth, however, is to be sought after in a manner proper to the dignity of the human person and his social nature. The inquiry is to be free, carried on with the aid of teaching or instruction, communication and dialogue, in the course of which men explain to one another the truth they have discovered, or think they have discovered, in order thus to assist one another in the quest for truth. Moreover, as the truth is discovered, it is by a personal assent that men are to adhere to it.

On his part, man perceives and acknowledges the imperatives of the divine law through the mediation of conscience. In all his activity a man is bound to follow his conscience in order that he may come to God, the end and purpose of life. It follows that he is not to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his conscience. Nor, on the other hand, is he to be restrained from acting in accordance with his conscience, especially in matters religious. The reason is that the exercise of religion, of its very nature, consists before all else in those internal, voluntary and free acts whereby man sets the course of his life directly toward God. No merely human power can either command or prohibit acts of this kind. The social nature of man, however, itself requires that he should give external expression to his internal acts of religion: that he should share with others in matters religious; that he should profess his religion in community. Injury therefore is done to the human person and to the very order established by God for human life, if the free exercise of religion is denied in society, provided just public order is observed.

**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**

**December**

23	Choir Practice	5:30 PM
25	Christmas Parish Office and Serra Gifts Closed	
26	Christmas Holiday Parish Office and Serra Gifts Closed	
27	Quarters and Cans Sunday	
30	Choir Practice	5:30 PM

**January**

01	Solemnity of Mary--Mass Parish Office and Serra Gifts Closed	8:00 AM
02	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
03	Family Catechesis	9:45 AM
04	I.C. Seniors Luncheon	11:00 AM

**27 DEC...QUARTERS & CANS SUNDAY**

During our second collection next Sunday, all money collected will be used here at Immaculate Conception to assist our brothers and sisters who come to us in need. Your generous donations will continue to be used to help feed, and in some cases assist those who are in need of our help with rent and utilities. The parish also provides gas and grocery cards. Resource information is also available so people can access public and private agencies that can help with their needs.

Food items collected will be taken by our volunteers to the Catholic Charities Food Resource Center. Please make sure these items are in non-breakable containers, unopened, and the dates have not expired. There is always a need for the following items:

- ◆ Canned goods including vegetables, fruit, chili, tuna fish, spam, chicken, beef, beans, soups, and spaghetti sauce;
- ◆ Peanut butter, jelly, and honey;
- ◆ Cereals, pasta, rice, and beans;
- ◆ Any paper goods such as toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, cups, napkins, Kleenex tissues, baby wipes;
- ◆ Hygiene items such as shampoo, soaps, toothpaste, tooth brushes, dental floss, mouthwash, disposable razors, shaving cream, lotions and feminine products;
- ◆ Plastic, paper or reusable grocery bags for carrying the above.

**Thank You**

On behalf of the entire Quarter and Cans Committee and Father Richard we thank you for your continued support of these important programs as we try to follow Our Lord's command and put the Holy Gospel into action.

*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*

... 11. Furthermore, Saint John Paul II pushed for a more urgent proclamation and witness to mercy in the contemporary world: "It is dictated by love for man, for all that is human and which, according to the intuitions of many of our contemporaries, is threatened by an immense danger. The mystery of Christ ... obliges me to proclaim mercy as God's merciful love, revealed in that same mystery of Christ. It likewise obliges me to have recourse to that mercy and to beg for it at this difficult, critical phase of the history of the Church and of the world." This teaching is more pertinent than ever and deserves to be taken up once again in this Holy Year. Let us listen to his words once more: "The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy – the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and of the Redeemer – and when she brings people close to the sources of the Savior's mercy, of which she is the trustee and dispenser."

**WE ARE CATHOLIC. WELCOME HOME.**

Visit [www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org).

**03-05 MAR...RESTORING MARRIAGE...**

Catholic Answers' National Apologetics Conference at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina on Harbor Island from March 3-5, 2016.

The conference, "Restoring Marriage Today," will feature The Most Reverend James Wall of Gallup, New Mexico, as the key note speaker.

To register, e-mail [conference@catholic.com](mailto:conference@catholic.com) or call 619-387-7200.

**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](mailto:fwgrant@gmail.com).

**THIS IS NOT A DAY CARE.  
IT'S A UNIVERSITY!**

—Dr. Everett Piper, President Oklahoma Wesleyan University

This past week, I actually had a student come forward after a university chapel service and complain because he felt “victimized” by a sermon on the topic of 1 Corinthians 13. It appears that this young scholar felt offended because a homily on love made him feel bad for not showing love! In his mind, the speaker was wrong for making him, and his peers, feel uncomfortable.

I'm not making this up. Our culture has actually taught our kids to be this self-absorbed and narcissistic! Any time their feelings are hurt, they are the victims! Anyone who dares challenge them and, thus, makes them “feel bad” about themselves, is a “hater,” a “bigot,” an “oppressor,” and a “victimizer.”

I have a message for this young man and all others who care to listen. That feeling of discomfort you have after listening to a sermon is called a conscience! An altar call is supposed to make you feel bad! It is supposed to make you feel guilty! The goal of many a good sermon is to get you to confess your sins—not coddle you in your selfishness. The primary objective of the Church and the Christian faith is your confession, not your self-actualization!

So here's my advice:

If you want the chaplain to tell you you're a victim rather than tell you that you need virtue, this may not be the university you're looking for. If you want to complain about a sermon that makes you feel less than loving for not showing love, this might be the wrong place.

If you're more interested in playing the “hater” card than you are in confessing your own hate; if you want to arrogantly lecture, rather than humbly learn; if you don't want to feel guilt in your soul when you are guilty of sin; if you want to be enabled rather than confronted, there are many universities across the land (in Missouri and elsewhere) that will give you exactly what you want, but Oklahoma Wesleyan isn't one of them.

At OKWU, we teach you to be selfless rather than self-centered. We are more interested in you practicing personal forgiveness than political revenge. We want you to model interpersonal reconciliation rather than foment personal conflict. We believe the content of your character is more important than the color of your skin. We don't believe that you have been victimized every time you feel guilty and we don't issue “trigger warnings” before altar calls.

Oklahoma Wesleyan is not a “safe place”, but rather, a place to learn: to learn that life isn't about you, but about others; that the bad feeling you have while listening to a sermon is called guilt; that the way to address it is to repent of everything that's wrong with you rather than blame others for everything that's wrong with them. This is a place where you will quickly learn that you need to grow up!

This is not a day care. This is a university!

*Fr. Perozich expands. Careful: NO TRIGGER WARNINGS*

**THIS IS NOT DAYCARE: IT IS THE CHURCH**

All of Dr. Piper's comments can be applied to the church and indeed to all of our over indulged Western cultures and governments.

The Synod on the Family with both the pope and bishops, at least in their reported comments in the media, show a classic example of the negation of conscience for the false self actualization of the person according to some value other than the gospel.

*“I don't like my first marriage, or I'm gay, or I don't want to be a Catholic. I'm not going to bother with the process of annulment or chastity or becoming a Catholic. I'm just going to enter a physically intimate relationship legally recognized or not so that I can be myself, or I'm going to remain outside the Catholic Church, but insist on Holy Communion. Those who deny me communion are not real Christians. They are haters, bigots, homophobes, victimizers, rigid, judgmental, oppressive, keeping me from Christ, marginalizing me, making me feel bad about myself and guilty. Your microaggressions don't allow me to be in church as my safe space where I feel loved for whatever I choose to do, even if it is contrary to Jesus' teaching.”*

No, bishops and those who do not follow Christ as he commanded, the faithful are not stuck in rigid doctrine, nor accusing others of infidelity, nor are they hiding in institutionalism. It is Jesus in their own conscience of the unfaithful who accuses, trying to wrest the soul from self centeredness, narcissism, control by evil spirits or immaturity.

Dr. Piper is correct. The church is a place for confession of faith and acknowledgement of sin and of asking for forgiveness. It is a place to learn and receive the virtue of Jesus through grace in word and sacrament, and to take seriously “Ite, Missa est” — “Go, [The] Mass is”, a 3 word Latin phrase that is jam packed with grace, meaning, and power so that we now go and take to the world the forgiveness, love, grace, message, salvation, redemption, mercy, instruction, truth, compassion, righteousness you received at Mass and share it with the world.

To paraphrase Dr. Piper: If you're more interested in playing the “hater” card than you are in confessing your own hate; if you want to arrogantly lecture, rather than humbly learn; if you don't want to feel guilt in your soul when you are guilty of sin; if you want to be enabled rather than confronted, there are many church like communities across the land that will give you exactly what you want instead of giving you Jesus; but the Catholic Church isn't one of them. She will give you Christian maturity and salvation of your soul instead of immaturity and self centeredness.

The Church is not a “safe place”, but rather, a place to learn and to fight for your soul and its salvation: to learn that life isn't only about you, but also about others; that the bad feeling you have while listening to a sermon is called guilt; that the way to address it is to repent of everything that's wrong with you rather than blame others for everything that's wrong with them. This is a place where you will quickly learn that you need to grow up!

**This is not a day care. This is the church!**

Dr. Piper's comments can be applied to life in society as well. If you do well, you will feel good. Certainly there are structures in place that either promote us or limit us. Our republican form of government does not allow a public vote on each issue; it requires responsibility in knowing for whom you are voting and how their prior actions have influenced society and your life, since they will bring the same actions to the political arena. It applies to your choices of instruction in the universities, the sciences, the financial world, the media, and of course politics. Choose your teachers and leaders not according to your feelings, but according to Jesus' whole gospel, not just seeking mercy without repentance, or trying to seek eternal life without surrendering your own life.

It is time to grow up, and take the Catholic faith even more seriously than you ever have before. It is time to listen to a conscience formed by Jesus and the scriptures to follow the whole law of Christ even when it goes against your feelings, and to bring your redeemed self into all the aspects of life.

Grow up in Jesus or stay down in sin. Fight for your soul. Make your choice today.