

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

April 3, 2016

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor

parish@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 11

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris

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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@sdccatholic.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

04	8 AM	<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i> †Dana Twiggs	RP
05	8AM	<i>St. Vincent Ferrer</i> Shirley Pearson, SI	RE
06	8 AM	<i>Easter Weekday</i> †Antoinette Guidi	RP
07	8 AM	<i>St. John Baptist de la Salle</i> Chris DiEdoardo, SI	RP
08	8 AM	<i>Easter Weekday</i> Aunt Geneva Nixon	RP
09	8 AM	<i>Easter Weekday</i> Kathleen Feinberg, SI	RP
	5:15 PM	†Jimmy Albright	RP
10	8:30 AM	Alyssa May, SI	RP
	10:00 AM	Adela Diaz, SI	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 PM	Damien & Christian Johnson, SI	RP

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

APRIL: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labor.

Evangelization: That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.

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

04	Bishop Gilbert Chavez
05	Rev. Eugene Sta. Ana
06	Rev. Anthony Stanonik
07	Rev. William Stevenson
08	Rev. Nemesio Sungcad
09	Rev. Romeo Supnet
10	Rev. Joseph Tabitue, CRSP

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-5; Jn 3:7b-15
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2-20; Jn 3:31-36
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1-14; Jn 6:1-15
 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-19; Jn 6:16-21
 Sunday: Acts 5:27-41; Ps 30:2-13; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19

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	Maria Casanova
Margaret Kelly	Steve Stone
Patricia Kennedy	Maria Esperanza Kramer
Dorothy Kleint	Mark Brandon.
Dena Mendoza	Jeanne Pontius
Jean Miller	Esther Salazar
Patricia O'Grady	Joane Anderson
Mary Jane Tiernan	Janet Meyers
Marguerite Vorst	Yolanda Garcia
Martha Zamudio	Susan Rykowski
Carlos Amaya	Elias Barajas
Mike Rodriguez	Shirley Ilog
Maguire Fitzpatrick	Olivia Ingram
Tony Jenkins	Grace Mulvanity
Peter Nalwalker	Angelica Ortega
Bob & RobbyWitt	Barbara Driscoll
Frank Garay	Lucille Miller
Frances Garcia	Reginald Custodio
Socorro Pacheco	Frankie Diaz, Jr.
Linda Lee	Victoria Cardenas
Amparo Valenzuela	Adela Diaz
Phyllis Altomare	Michael Cerda
Alicia Ambrose	Rita Tarango
Inez Bull & Michael Cerda	Pat Haase
Cosmo & Joan Busalacchi	Joanne Daleo

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 Cinco
Daniel Dinglebeck, USN	CPL Wilson Santiago
PFC David Eley, USMC	Alfred Tello
Micah Emery	Ricky Thibeault
Sgt. Christopher Escalona	Tony Tulloss
Capt. Pedro Esquivel	PFC Travis Vliet; & 3rd
1Lt. Cortez Fabia	Marine Aircraft Wing.
Juan Carlos Galazza	SCPO Desiree S. Hayes,
SSGT. Vincent Charles	USN
Lucario	Gil Perez, US Navy

† PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED †

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace Amen.

Joan Schmitt	Alexander Toczko
Robert McMahon	Jeannette Toczko
Richard Solis Moreno	José Teofilo Solorio
Alvin Weaver	Ray & Betty Jackson
William Bethel	Denise Cooney
Lillian Sinclair	Joanne Mangiameli
Olga Hritz	Edna Moore
Alice Perry	Paul Ramirez
Joseph Moreno	Isabella Asaro
Louie Serrano	Maude Laracy
Gustavo Sosa	Helen Peña
Floyd Watson	Lydia Castillo Herrera
Iola Torre	Bertha Lockwood
Emilie Graham	Salvador Rivera
Angela Cordova	Deborah Bute
Ramiro Moreno	John Cervantes

CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF FOR US

FROM THE PASTOR

St. Fulgentius of Ruspe, Bishop

The sacrifices of animal victims which our forefathers were commanded to offer to God by the holy Trinity itself, the one God of the old and the new testaments, foreshadowed the most acceptable gift of all. This was the offering which in his compassion the only Son of God would make of himself in his human nature for our sake.

The Apostle teaches that Christ *offered himself for us to God as a fragrant offering and sacrifice*. He is the true God and the true high priest who for our sake entered once for all into the holy of holies, taking with him not the blood of bulls and goats but his own blood. This was foreshadowed by the high priest of old when each year he took blood and entered the holy of holies.

Christ is therefore the one who in himself alone embodied all that he knew to be necessary to achieve our redemption. He is at once priest and sacrifice, God and temple. He is the priest through whom we have been reconciled, the sacrifice by which we have been reconciled, the temple in which we have been reconciled, the God with whom we have been reconciled. He alone is priest, sacrifice and temple because he is all these things as God in the form of a servant; but he is not alone as God, for he is this with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the form of God.

Hold fast to this and never doubt it: the only-begotten Son, God the Word, becoming man offered himself for us to God as a fragrant offering and sacrifice. In the time of the old testament, patriarchs, prophets and priests sacrificed animals in his honor, and in honor of the Father and the Holy Spirit as well.

Now in the time of the new testament the holy catholic Church throughout the world never ceases to offer the sacrifice of bread and wine, in faith and love, to him and to the Father and the Holy Spirit, with whom he shares one godhead.

Those animal sacrifices foreshadowed the flesh of Christ which he would offer for our sins, though himself without sin, and the blood which he would pour out for the forgiveness of our sins. In this sacrifice there is thanksgiving for, and commemoration of, the flesh of Christ that he offered for us, and the blood that the same God poured out for us. On this Saint Paul says in the Acts of the Apostles: *Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock, in which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as bishops to rule the Church of God, which he won for himself by his blood*.

Those sacrifices of old pointed in sign to what was to be given to us. In this sacrifice we see plainly what has already been given to us. Those sacrifices foretold the death of the Son of God for sinners. In this sacrifice he is proclaimed as already slain for sinners, as the Apostle testifies: *Christ died for the wicked at a time when we were still powerless, and when we were enemies we were reconciled with God through the death of his Son*.

PREPARE FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

— Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop

Rejoice, ye heavens, and let the earth be glad, for those who are to be sprinkled with hyssop, and cleansed with the spiritual hyssop, the power of Him to whom at His Passion drink was offered on hyssop and a reed. And while the Heavenly Powers rejoice, let the souls that are to be united to the spiritual Bridegroom make themselves ready. For the voice is heard of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord. For this is no light matter, no ordinary and indiscriminate union according to the flesh, but the All-searching Spirit's election according to faith. For the inter-marriages and contracts of the world are not made altogether with judgment: but wherever there is wealth or beauty, there the bridegroom speedily approves: but here it is not beauty of person, but the soul's clear conscience; not the condemned Mammon, but the wealth of the soul in godliness.

Listen then, O ye children of righteousness, to John's exhortation when he says, Make straight the way of the Lord. Take away all obstacles and stumbling-blocks, that ye may walk straight onward to eternal life. Make ready the vessels of the soul, cleansed by unfeigned faith, for reception of the Holy Ghost. Begin at once to wash your robes in repentance, that when called to the bride-chamber ye may be found clean. For the Bridegroom invites all without distinction, because His grace is bounteous; and the cry of loud-voiced heralds assembles them all: but the same Bridegroom afterwards separates those who have come in to the figurative marriage. O may none of those whose names have now been enrolled hear the words, Friend, how camest thou in hither, not having a wedding garment? But may you all hear, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou wast faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

For now meanwhile thou standest outside the door: but God grant that you all may say, The King hath brought me into His chamber. Let my soul rejoice in the Lord: for He hath clothed me with a garment of salvation, and a robe of gladness: He hath crowned me with a garland as a bridegroom, and decked me with ornaments as a bride: that the soul of every one of you may be found not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; I do not mean before you have received the grace, for how could that be? since it is for remission of sins that ye have been called; but that, when the grace is to be given, your conscience being found uncondemned may concur with the grace.

This is in truth a serious matter, brethren, and you must approach it with good heed. Each one of you is about to be presented to God before tens of thousands of the Angelic Hosts: the Holy Ghost is about to seal your souls: ye are to be enrolled in the army of the Great King. Therefore make you ready, and equip yourselves, by putting on I mean, not bright apparel, but piety of soul with a good conscience.

AROUND THE PARISH



2016 Baptism Schedule
April 12 **Baptism class**
April 17 **Baptism**

Schedule is available on the parish website (ic-sandiego.org).

03 APR ... FAMILY CATECHESIS

Parents and children and all adults are welcome at Family Catechesis in the bride's room of the parish hall every other week. The program continues on Sunday, April 3 at 9:45. Children must be accompanied by their parents at each session.




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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 If you are able to volunteer once a month, once a week or more, please contact Liz Fielder at the gift shop, 619-295-4141, x14.

Do you have a Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, or Wedding to attend? If so, consider visiting the Serra Gifts for that special gift.

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

09 Apr ... Garden Card Party

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
 St. Mary Magdalene Parish
 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 \$12 donation includes lunch
 For info, call Agnes 619 276-5611

Courtyard Bricks ...

Bricks in honor or in memory of loved ones are available for purchase using the form on the website (IC-SanDiego.com) or in the Gift Shop.

Welcome New Parishioners
Dec. 2015 - March 2016

Terry & Kerri Alcaraz

John & Adoracion Boatwright

Gloria Damecki

Richard Longworth

Sean McSherry

Ricardo & Anna Miranda, and their daughter Lisette

Grace Mulvanity

Ruben & Karimah Rodriguez, and their daughter Winter

Justin & Anna Sorensen, and their daughter Olivia

30 April ... An Evening with Dr. Peter Kreeft
How to Win the Culture War
Strategies for Turning the World Right Side Up

Our Lady of Mount Carmel -- 7:00 p.m.
 For information www.mkt.com/immaculate
 To register by phone, call 818-943-8979

A portion of the proceeds benefit Children of the Immaculate Heart, an apostolate serving victims of sex trafficking.

04 April - 23 May ... Endow Study of Pope St. John Paul II's "Letter to Women"

Church of St. Mary Magdalene
 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Must register at: <https://store.endowonline.org/diane-kenney-p2963.asps>

For info: diane.kenney@att.net or religioused@saintmarymagdonline.org

Welcome Home to those who were received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church

Jonathan Card
 Jason Choi
 Irene Flores
 Moses Cantillo Gross
 Alexander Esteban Jimenez

AROUND THE PARISH

Gifts of Treasure

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

March 27, 2016

Total Collection: \$9,444.03
Envelopes: \$5,567.00 Plate: \$3,877.03
Total contributing households: 126

5:15 Sat	\$1635.10
8:30 Sun	\$2831.67
10:00 Sun	\$2222.19
11:30 Sun	\$1232.00
5:15 Sun	\$1357.07
Mailed	\$ 166.00

EXPENSES

March 21-25, 2016

Cable/Internet	\$70.00
Gas & Electric	\$688.41
MinistrySupplies	\$282.26
Music	\$500.00
Water Utilities	\$897.55

Total: \$ 2,438.22

March 20, 2016

Total Collection: \$6,282.36
Envelopes: \$4000.62 Plate: \$2,281.74
Total contributing households: 115

5:15 Sat	\$ 987.99
8:30 Sun	\$1,481.25
10:00 Sun	\$1,477.12
11:30 Sun	\$1,295.63
5:15 Sun	\$ 513.37
Mailed	\$ 527.00

Annual Catholic Appeal
Goal: \$24,000

Pledged: \$25,853.50 -- Paid: \$17,763.50

Good Friday Collection
for the Holy Land

\$ 913.00

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL:
 DIGNITATIS HUMANAE**

MAN'S DIGNITY AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

... 15. The council exhorts Catholics, and it directs a plea to all men, most carefully to consider how greatly necessary religious freedom is, especially in the present condition of the human family. All nations are coming into even closer unity. Men of different cultures and religions are being brought together in closer relationships. There is a growing consciousness of the personal responsibility that every man has. All this is evident. Consequently, in order that relationships of peace and harmony be established and maintained within the whole of mankind, it is necessary that religious freedom be everywhere provided with an effective constitutional guarantee and that respect be shown for the high duty and right of man freely to lead his religious life in society. May the God and Father of all grant that the human family, through careful observance of the principle of religious freedom in society, may be brought by the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to the sublime and unending and "glorious freedom of the sons of God" (Rom. 8:21). *end*

HELPING YOUR NEIGHBOR

If you truly want to help the soul of your neighbor, you should approach God first with all your heart. Ask God simply to fill you with charity . . . with it you can accomplish what you desire.

--St. Vincent Ferrer

**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

APRIL

04	I.C. Seniors Luncheon	11:00 AM
06	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
09	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
10	COLFS Baby Bottle Drive Parish Breakfast Parish Registration	8:30 AM
12	Baptism Class	7:00 PM
13	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
16	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
17	Baptisms	2:00 PM
20	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
23	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
24	Quarters and Cans Sunday Courtyard Dedication	4:00 PM
27	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
30	Quilting Group	9:30 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

... 20. One can see why, on the basis of such a liberating vision of mercy as a source of new life, Jesus was rejected by the Pharisees and the other teachers of the law. In an attempt to remain faithful to the law, they merely placed burdens on the shoulders of others and undermined the Father’s mercy. The appeal to a faithful observance of the law must not prevent attention from being given to matters that touch upon the dignity of the person.

The appeal Jesus makes to the text from the book of the prophet Hosea – “I desire love and not sacrifice” (6:6) – is important in this regard. Jesus affirms that, from that time onward, the rule of life for his disciples must place mercy at the centre, as Jesus himself demonstrated by sharing meals with sinners. Mercy, once again, is revealed as a fundamental aspect of Jesus’ mission. This is truly challenging to his hearers, who would draw the line at a formal respect for the law. Jesus, on the other hand, goes beyond the law; the company he keeps with those the law considers sinners makes us realize the depth of his mercy.

10 APR ... COLFS BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

Baby bottles will be distributed by COLFS. Please remember to return the bottles containing your donations before April 30.

Funds support the services provided by the Culture of Life and Family Services.

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 24, 2016
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Parishioners and friends are invited to attend the **Dedication of the Courtyard** followed by a reception (cake and coffee) in the parish hall.

“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones come daily.”
Ivy Baker Priest

"He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will change the face of the world."
– Benjamin Franklin

JOINT DECLARATION OF POPE FRANCIS AND PATRIARCH KIRILL OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA
2/12/16

8. Our gaze must firstly turn to those regions of the world where Christians are victims of persecution. In many countries of the Middle East and North Africa whole families, villages and cities of our brothers and sisters in Christ are being completely exterminated. Their churches are being barbarously ravaged and looted, their sacred objects profaned, their monuments destroyed. It is with pain that we call to mind the situation in Syria, Iraq and other countries of the Middle East, and the massive exodus of Christians from the land in which our faith was first disseminated and in which they have lived since the time of the Apostles, together with other religious communities.

CRISIS IN THE CHURCH

— *Interview with His Holiness Benedict XVI*

Servais: Your Holiness, the question posed this year as part of the study days promoted by the rectory of the Gesu (the residence for Jesuit seminarians in Rome) is that of justification by faith. The last volume of your collected works highlights your resolute affirmation: “The Christian faith is not an idea, but a life.” Commenting on the famous Pauline affirmation in Romans 3:28, you mentioned, in this regard, a twofold transcendence: “Faith is a gift to the believers communicated through the community, which for its part is the result of God’s gift” (“Glaube ist Gabe durch die Gemeinschaft; die sich selbst gegeben wird,” gs iv, 512). Could you explain what you meant by that statement, taking into account of course the fact that the aim of these days of study is to clarify the pastoral theology and vivify the spiritual experience of the faithful?

Benedict XVI: The question concerns what faith is and how one comes to believe. On the one hand, faith is a profoundly personal contact with God, which touches me in my innermost being and places me in front of the living God in absolute immediacy in such a way that I can speak with Him, love Him and enter into communion with Him. But at the same time this reality which is so fundamentally personal also has inseparably to do with the community. It is an essential part of faith that I be introduced into the “we” of the sons and daughters of God, into the pilgrim community of brothers and sisters. The encounter with God means also, at the same time, that I myself become open, torn from my closed solitude and received into the living community of the Church. That living community is also a mediator of my encounter with God, though that encounter touches my heart in an entirely personal way. Faith comes from hearing (*fides ex auditu*), St. Paul teaches us. Listening in turn always implies a partner.

Faith is not a product of reflection nor is it even an attempt to penetrate the depths of my own being. Both of these things may be present, but they remain insufficient without the “listening” through which God, from without, from a story He himself created, challenges me. In order for me to believe, I need witnesses who have met God and make Him accessible to me. In my article on baptism I spoke of the double transcendence of the community, in this way causing to emerge once again an important element: the faith community does not create itself. It is not an assembly of men who have some ideas in common and who decide to work for the spread of such ideas. Then everything would be based on its own decision and, in the final analysis, on the majority vote principle, which is, in the end it would be based on human opinion. A Church built in this way cannot be for me the guarantor of eternal life nor require decisions from me that make me suffer and are contrary to my desires. No, the Church is not self-made, she was created by God and she is continuously formed by him. This finds expression in the sacraments, above all in that of baptism: I enter into the Church not

by a bureaucratic act, but through the sacrament. And this is to say that I am welcomed into a community that did not originate in itself and is projected beyond itself. The ministry that aims to form the spiritual experience of the faithful must proceed from these fundamental givens.

It is necessary to abandon the idea of a Church which produces herself and to make clear that the Church becomes a community in the communion of the body of Christ. The Church must introduce the individual Christian into an encounter with Jesus Christ and bring Christians into His presence in the sacrament.

Servais: When you were Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, commenting on the Joint Declaration of the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation on the Doctrine of Justification of Oct. 31, 1999, you pointed out a difference of mentality in relation to Luther and the question of salvation and blessedness as he had posed it. The religious experience of Luther was dominated by terror before the wrath of God, a feeling quite alien to modern men, who sense rather the absence of God (see your article in *Communio*, 2000, 430). For these, the problem is not so much how to obtain eternal life, but rather how to ensure, in the precarious conditions of our world, a certain balance of fully human life. Can the teaching of St. Paul of justification by faith, in this new context, reach the “religious” experience or at least the “elementary” experience of our contemporaries?

Benedict XVI: First of all, I want to emphasize once again what I wrote in *Communio* (2000) on the issue of justification. For the man of today, compared to those of the time of Luther and to those holding the classical perspective of the Christian faith, things are in a certain sense inverted, or rather, is no longer man who believes he needs justification before God, but rather he is of the opinion that God is obliged to justify himself because of all the horrible things in the world and in the face of the misery of being human, all of which ultimately depend on Him. In this regard, I find it significant that a Catholic theologian may profess even in a direct and formal this inverted position: that Christ did not suffer for the sins of men, but rather, as it were, had “canceled the guilt of God.” Even if most Christians today would not share such a drastic reversal of our faith, we could say that all of this reveals an underlying trend of our times. When Johann Baptist Metz argues that theology today must be “sensitive to theodicy” (German: *theodizee empfindlich*), this highlights the same problem in a positive way. Even rescinding from such a radical contestation of the Church’s vision of the relationship between God and man, the man of today has in a very general way the sense that God cannot let most of humanity be damned. In this sense, the concern for the personal salvation of souls typical of past times has for the most part disappeared.

This is the first part of the interview. It will continue in subsequent bulletins.