

The Catholic Church of the  
**Immaculate Conception**

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**April 17, 2016**

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

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

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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@sdccatholic.org](mailto: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

18	8 AM	<b>Easter Weekday</b> †Gladys Pearson	MT
19	8AM	<b>Easter Weekday</b> Gloria Heuer, SI	RE
20	8 AM	<b>Easter Weekday</b> Anna Makayan, SI	JB
21	8 AM	<b>St. Anselm</b> †Sixto Lopez	JB
22	8 AM	<b>Easter Weekday</b> †Wilfred Pearson	JB
23	8 AM	<b>St. George; St. Adalbert</b> †Robert DeLeon, Jr.	RP
	5:15 PM	†Martin Morris	RP
24	8:30 AM	†Laureana Asayas	RP
	10:00 AM	†Richard Green	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RE
	5:15 PM	Alexander Jimenez, 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

18	Rev. Edwin Tutor
19	Rev. José Arturo Uribe, CSsR
20	Rev. Danilo Valdepeñas
21	Rev. Luis Valenciano
22	Rev. Albino Vecina, CRSO
23	Rev. Nelson Vencilao
24	Rev. Mario Vesga, CRSP

### PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18  
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30  
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24--13:5a; Ps 67:2-8; Jn 12:44-50  
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-27; Jn 13:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11; Jn 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14  
 Sunday: Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5; Jn 13:31-35

### 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	Jeannette Toczeko
Richard Solís 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
Alexander Toczeko	Daniel Don

## A REFLECTION ON THE GODS OF EGYPT

## FROM THE PASTOR

— Jerry Newcombe

The title of a recently released film caught my attention: *The Gods of Egypt*. This column is not about the film, but rather it addresses God's judgment on the gods of Egypt by way of the ten plagues.

The ten plagues were the systematic judgments of God against Pharaoh and the Egyptians for enslaving the Hebrews for 400 years and refusing to let them go.

"Let My people go," said God through his servants, Moses and his brother Aaron. But Pharaoh refused. So under God's instruction, Moses unleashed ten plagues against Egypt.

In each of these judgments, God spared His people, the Hebrews. He miraculously kept them from experiencing His wrath.

The final judgment, the slaying of the Egyptian's firstborn, involved the very first Passover event. The Hebrew people were instructed by God to take a lamb without blemish, to sacrifice it, and to spread the blood on the top and the two sides of the doorpost, forming a type of cross.

Then the angel of death would pass over the Hebrew households, but would slay the firstborn of the Egyptians. The New Testament says Christ our Passover lamb has been slain for us.

Dr. D. James Kennedy points out that each of the ten plagues was a judgment on one of the gods of Egypt. You can find his commentary on this in the new D. James Kennedy Topical Study Bible in the book of Exodus.

Kennedy notes, "In the Book of Exodus, we see the great confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh. This is the Old Testament counterpart to the confrontation between Christ and Pilate, the representative of the pagan Roman Empire, with Pharaoh being the representative of the pagan empire of Egypt. Here is a classic confrontation between good and evil, Christ and Satan."

Consider the plagues one by one and what Kennedy says about God's judgment on Egypt's false gods:

1) The Egyptians worshiped the River Nile, the source of their lives. The first plague attacked that idol by turning the water into blood.

- 2) The goddess Hekt (Heket, Heqet) had the face of a frog. "You worship frogs," said God in effect, "now see what it's like to have frogs everywhere." In a short time, the Egyptians were sick of frogs.
- 3) Plague number three saw lice fill the land. Kennedy notes, "Now one of the gods of the Egyptians was Seb, the earth god... The Egyptians' reverence for the ground having it covered with trillions of fleas or

lice would no doubt cool their amorous desires for that earth god Seb."

- 4) Swarms of flies comprised the fourth plague. Says Kennedy, "Scholars say they probably were not flies, so much as they were the beetles common to that area, called the scarabaeus from which we get the word scarab, which is a black beetle."
- 5) The fifth plague was the judgment on the Egyptian cattle. Apis, the chief god of Memphis, was a sacred bull worshiped by the Egyptians.
- 6) The sixth plague involved boils. This was a judgment against the god Typhon. This god, notes Kennedy, was "a magical genie that was worshiped in ancient Egypt. Here was a god who was connected with the magicians, which were the priests of the Egyptian religion. We find here that the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boil was upon the magicians and upon all of Egypt. So their power was broken."
- 7) Then came the plague of hail. Shu was the "god of the atmosphere." As Kennedy points out, "Now it is hard to go out to worship the god of the atmosphere when you are being pounded with large hail stones."
- 8) Next, locusts swarmed the land. The Egyptians worshiped the god Serapis, defender of the land against locusts.
- 9) Another major god of the Egyptians was Rah, the sun god. But Plague number nine saw darkness come over the land, even during the day.
- 10) "And finally in the last plague upon Pharaoh himself who was supposedly descended from the sun god Rah, his first born was killed," writes Kennedy.

He sums it all up this way, "In the ten plagues, God shows the world for all time that He alone deserves our worship."

Tragically, people today worship all sorts of false gods: money, celebrities, football or other sports. Some even worship their own possessions. Each of these will one day be buned up in God's final judgement of this earth, and then all will see that only the Triune God is worthy of worship.

Whether audiences find the new movie, *The Gods of Egypt*, to be an entertaining fantasy adventure or just a high tech stinker, it's good to remember that the ten plagues were God's judgments on human idolatry.

**Fr. Perozich:** *The preceding article is neither Catholic dogma nor published agreement by renowned scripture scholars. It, however, does show God's power over the gods that people worship. Put your faith in the Holy and Immortal Trinity and not in the gods humans worship in this world.*

**AROUND THE PARISH**



**2016 Baptism Schedule**

<b>April 17</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
<b>May 10</b>	<b>Baptism class</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Baptism</b>

Schedule is available on the parish website ([ic-sandiego.org](http://ic-sandiego.org)).

**Courtyard Bricks ...**

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

**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](http://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.

**COURTYARD DEDICATION  
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.

**24 April ... Missionary Cooperation Appeal**

Immaculate Conception Parish welcomes Fr. Bernardo Joseph Viagappan from the Diocese of Salem, India. Fr. Viagappan will speak about the impact of donations made to the Missionary Cooperation Plan. Special envelopes for donations will be provided and may be returned in the regular collection baskets on April 24 or May 01.

**24 APR ... QUARTERS & CANS SUNDAY**

Please drop your Quarters and Cans envelopes in the regular collection next Sunday or the following 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.

**COLFS BABY BOTTLE DRIVE**

Please drop your donation bottles in the bin located in the courtyard after Mass this weekend. Thank you for your support.

**27 April ... Hospice and Palliative Care Presentation**

Our Mother of Confidence Parish is hosting a Q&A forum on Hospice and Palliative Care on Wednesday, April 27 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Topics for discussion include the definition of hospice, family involvement and end of life management, and hospice team roles and duties. Hospice professionals will also be available for Q&A.

All are welcome, please invite your friends! Refreshments will be served, there is no charge for the event. Please contact Tasha @ 858-952-1786 or [troma@ardenthapc.com](mailto:troma@ardenthapc.com) for more information.

**AROUND THE PARISH**

**Gifts of Treasure**

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

**April 10, 2016**

**Total Collection: \$3928.87**  
**Envelopes: \$2,752.74 Plate: \$1,176.13**  
**Total contributing households: 79**

5:15 Sat	\$ 758.00
8:30 Sun	\$ 767.35
10:00 Sun	\$1062.17
11:30 Sun	\$ 472.61
5:15 Sun	\$ 642.00
Mailed	\$ 226.74

**EXPENSES**  
 April 4-8, 2016

Music	\$625.00
Pest Control	\$210.00
Postage	\$100.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$96.54
Ministry Supplies	\$70.50
Supply Priest	\$870.00
Telephone	\$298.49

**Total: \$ 2,270.53**

**Annual Catholic Appeal**  
**Goal: \$24,000**

Pledged: \$27,053.50 -- Paid: \$18,963.50

*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

**MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 8**

Remember your mother with a special gift. Rosaries, religious medals, prayer books, and religious jewelry are available in the gift shop.

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>

**SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL:  
 SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM  
 ON THE SACRED LITURGY**

... 2. While the liturgy daily builds up those who are within into a holy temple of the Lord, into a dwelling place for God in the Spirit , to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ , at the same time it marvelously strengthens their power to preach Christ, and thus shows forth the Church to those who are outside as a sign lifted up among the nations under which the scattered children of God may be gathered together , until there is one sheepfold and one shepherd .

3. Wherefore the sacred Council judges that the following principles concerning the promotion and reform of the liturgy should be called to mind, and that practical norms should be established.

Among these principles and norms there are some which can and should be applied both to the Roman rite and also to all the other rites. The practical norms which follow, however, should be taken as applying only to the Roman rite, except for those which, in the very nature of things, affect other rites as well.

**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**

17	Baptisms	2:00 PM
20	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
23	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
24	Missionary Cooperation Appeal Quarters and Cans Sunday Courtyard Dedication	4:00 PM
27	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
30	Quilting Group	9:30 AM

**MAY**

02	I.C. Seniors Luncheon	11:00 AM
04	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
06-08	Old Town Cinco de Mayo Festival	
07	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
08	Mother's Day	
10	Baptism Class	7:00 PM
11	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
14	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
15	Parish Breakfast Tomorrow Project Baptism	9:30 AM 8AM to 1:00 PM 2:00 PM
18	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
21	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
22	Building Fund Collection Sunday	

*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**

21. Mercy is not opposed to justice but rather expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe. The experience of the prophet Hosea can help us see the way in which mercy surpasses justice. The era in which the prophet lived was one of the most dramatic in the history of the Jewish people. The kingdom was tottering on the edge of destruction; the people had not remained faithful to the covenant; they had wandered from God and lost the faith of their forefathers. According to human logic, it seems reasonable for God to think of rejecting an unfaithful people; they had not observed their pact with God and therefore deserved just punishment: in other words, exile. The prophet's words attest to this: "They shall not return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me" (Hos 11:5).

**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](mailto:diane.kenney@att.net) or  
[religiously@saintmarymagonline.org](mailto:religiously@saintmarymagonline.org)

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

10. Thousands of victims have already been claimed in the violence in Syria and Iraq, which has left many other millions without a home or means of sustenance. We urge the international community to seek an end to the violence and terrorism and, at the same time, to contribute through dialogue to a swift return to civil peace. Large-scale humanitarian aid must be assured to the afflicted populations and to the many refugees seeking safety in neighboring lands.

We call upon all those whose influence can be brought to bear upon the destiny of those kidnapped, including the Metropolitans of Aleppo, Paul and John Ibrahim, who were taken in April 2013, to make every effort to ensure their prompt liberation.

"You must not think that peace and security will come to you by accommodating evil. Hearts must change for actions to change. You must pray, dear children, for the victory of Truth in all hearts. I speak once again of the Truth between good and evil. The taking of human life is always evil. Do not compare the murder of innocent people to being politically correct. God is on the side of Truth - not compromise. Courageously stand up for the Truth."  
— *Mary, Refuge of Holy Love*

## CRISIS IN THE CHURCH

— *Interview with His Holiness Benedict XVI*

In some parts of Germany there was a very moving devotion that contemplated the Not Gottes (“poverty of God”). For my part, that makes pass before my eyes an impressive image representing the suffering Father, who, as Father, shares inwardly the sufferings of the Son. And also the image of the “throne of grace” is part of this devotion: the Father supports the cross and the crucified, bends lovingly over him and the two are, as it were, together on the cross. So in a grand and pure way, one perceives there what God’s mercy means, what the participation of God in man’s suffering means. It is not a matter of a cruel justice, not a matter of the Father’s fanaticism, but rather of the truth and the reality of creation: the true intimate overcoming of evil that ultimately can be realized only in the suffering of love.

**Servais:** In the Spiritual Exercises, Ignatius of Loyola does not use the Old Testament images of revenge, as opposed to Paul (cfr. 2 Thessalonians 1: 5-9); nevertheless he invites us to contemplate how men, until the Incarnation, “descended into hell” (Spiritual Exercises n. 102; see. ds iv, 376) and to consider the example of the “countless others who ended up there for far fewer sins than I have I committed” (Spiritual Exercises, n. 52). It is in this spirit that St. Francis Xavier lived his pastoral work, convinced he had to try to save from the terrible fate of eternal damnation as many “infidels” as possible. The teaching, formalized in the Council of Trent, in the passage with regard to the judgment of the good and the evil, later radicalized by the Jansenists, was taken up in a much more restrained way in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (cfr. § 5 633, 1037). Can it be said that on this point, in recent decades, there has been a kind of “development of dogma” that the Catechism should definitely take into account?

**Benedict XVI:** There is no doubt that on this point we are faced with a profound evolution of dogma. While the fathers and theologians of the Middle Ages could still be of the opinion that, essentially, the whole human race had become Catholic and that paganism existed now only on the margins, the discovery of the New World at the beginning of the modern era radically changed perspectives. In the second half of the last century it has been fully affirmed the understanding that God cannot let go to perdition all the unbaptized and that even a purely natural happiness for them does not represent a real answer to the question of human existence. If it is true that the great missionaries of the 16th century were still convinced that those who are not baptized are

forever lost – and this explains their missionary commitment – in the Catholic Church after the Second Vatican Council that conviction was finally abandoned.

From this came a deep double crisis. On the one hand this seems to remove any motivation for a future missionary commitment. Why should one try to convince the people to accept the Christian faith when they can be saved even without it? But also for Christians an issue emerged: the obligatory nature of the faith and its way of life began to seem uncertain and problematic. If there are those who can save themselves in other ways, it is not clear, in the final analysis, why the Christian himself is bound by the requirements of the Christian faith and its morals. If faith and salvation are no longer interdependent, faith itself becomes unmotivated.

Lately several attempts have been formulated in order to reconcile the universal necessity of the Christian faith with the opportunity to save oneself without it. I will mention here two: first, the well-known thesis of the anonymous Christians of Karl Rahner. He sustains that the basic, essential act at the basis of Christian existence, decisive for salvation, in the transcendental structure of our consciousness, consists in the opening to the entirely Other, toward unity with God. The Christian faith would in this view cause to rise to consciousness what is structural in man as such. So when a man accepts himself in his essential being, he fulfills the essence of being a Christian without knowing what it is in a conceptual way. The Christian, therefore, coincides with the human and, in this sense, every man who accepts himself is a Christian even if he does not know it. It is true that this theory is fascinating, but it reduces Christianity itself to a pure conscious presentation of what a human being is in himself and therefore overlooks the drama of change and renewal that is central to Christianity. Even less acceptable is the solution proposed by the pluralistic theories of religion, for which all religions, each in their own way, would be ways of salvation and in this sense, in their effects must be considered equivalent. The critique of religion of the kind exercised in the Old Testament, in the New Testament and in the early Church is essentially more realistic, more concrete and true in its examination of the various religions. Such a simplistic reception is not proportional to the magnitude of the issue.

*This is the third part of the interview. It began on April 3, continues April 10 It will continue in subsequent bulletins.*