

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)

**June 19, 2016**

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

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

**Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris**

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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@sdcatholic.org](mailto:rfitzmor@sdcatholic.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

20	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> Novena for Fathers	RP
21	8AM	<i>St. Aloysius Gonzaga</i> Novena for Fathers	RE
22	8 AM	<i>St. Paulinus of Nola; Ss. John Fisher &amp; Thomas More</i> Novena for Fathers	RP
23	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> Novena for Fathers	RP
24	8 AM	<i>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i> Novena for Fathers	RP
25	8 AM	<i>Weekday; BVM</i> Novena for Fathers	RP
26	5:15 PM	†Martin Morris	RP
	8:30 AM	Paz Hyner, SI	RE
	10:00 AM	†Anne White	RP
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RP
	5:15 PM	Novena for Fathers	RP

### APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

#### JUNE: Intentions of the Holy Father

**Universal:** That immigrants and refugees may find welcome and respect in the countries to which they come.

**Evangelization:** That the personal encounter with Jesus may arouse in many young people the desire to offer their own lives in priesthood or consecrated life.

### PRAY: SEMINARIANS IN THEOLOGY

Ord	Derek Twilliger: Priestly Ordination June 24
Ord	David Exner, Priestly Ordination June 24
Ord	Corey Tufford, Priestly Ordination June 24
1st	Manuel Del Rio, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo
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
3rd	Billy Zondler, Mt. Angel Seminary, OR

### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

20	Rev. James Burson, CJM
21	Rev. George Byrne
22	Very Rev. Msgr. Steven Callahan
23	Rev. Msgr. Mark Campbell
24	Rev. Miguel Campos, Sch.P.
25	Rev. George Carroll, SJ
26	Rev. Msgr. Joseph Carroll

### PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-18; Ps 60:3-13; Mt 7:1-5  
 Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-36; Ps 48:2-11; Mt 7:6-14  
 Wednesday: 2 Kgs 22:8-23:-3; Ps 119: Mt 7:15-20  
 Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 106:1b-5; Mt 7:21-29  
 Friday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1-15; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-80  
 Saturday: Lam 2:2-19; Ps 74:1b-7, 20-21; Mt 8:15-17  
 Sunday: 1Kg 19:16-21; Ps 16:1-11; Gal 5:1-18; Lk 9:51-62

### PRAY FOR HEALING

*Jesus we ask you to bring your peace and healing touch to those who are ill afraid or worried. Amen*

Patricia Kennedy	Inez Bull
Dorothy Kleint	Cosimo & Joan Busalacchi
Dena Mendoza	Maria Casanova
Jean Miller	Steve Stone
Patricia O'Grady	Mark Brandon.
Mary Jane Tiernan	Jeanne Pontius
Marguerite Vorst	Esther Salazar
Martha Zamudio	Joane Anderson
Carlos Amaya	Yolanda Garcia
Mike Rodriguez	Elias Barajas
Maguire Fitzpatrick	Shirley Ilog
Tony Jenkins	Olivia Ingram
Peter Nalwalker	Grace Mulvanity
Bob & RobbyWitt	Angelica Ortega
Frank Garay	Barbara Driscoll
Frances Garcia	Lucille Miller
Socorro Pacheco	Reginald Custodio
Linda Lee	Victoria Cardenas
Amparo Valenzuela	Dominic Castagnola
Phyllis Altomare	John Hobbs
Alicia Ambrose	Linda Haase

### 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
1Lt. Cortez Fabia	PFC Travis Vliet; & 3rd
Juan Carlos Galazza	Marine Aircraft Wing.
SSGT. Vincent Charles	SCPO Desiree S. Hayes, 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.*

Joseph Moreno	Maude Laracy
Louie Serrano	Helen Peña
Gustavo Sosa	Lydia Castillo Herrera
Floyd Watson	Bertha Lockwood
Iola Torre	Salvador Rivera
Emilie Graham	John Cervantes
Angela Cordova	Daniel Don
Ramiro Moreno	Florence Messina
Alexander Toczko	Arthur Wilbur Martinez
Jeannette Toczko	Jesse Benitez
José Teofilo Solorio	Margaret Kelly
Ray & Betty Jackson	Martha Jane Hotchkiss
Denise Cooney	Janet Meyers
Joanne Mangiameli	Hector Morales
Edna Moore	Carol Raiter
Paul Ramirez	Albina Farrie

## THE INTERIOR WITNESS

— Saint Gregory the Great, Pope

## FROM THE PASTOR

*Whoever is mocked by his friend, as I am, shall call upon God, and he shall hear*

*him.* A weak-minded person is frequently diverted toward pursuing exterior happiness when the breath of popular favor accompanies his good actions. So he gives up his own personal choices, preferring to remain at the mercy of whatever he hears from others. Thus, he rejoices not so much to become but to be called blessed. Eager for praise, he gives up what he had begun to be; and so he is severed from God by the very means by which he appeared to be commendable in God.

But sometimes a soul firmly strives for righteousness and yet is beset by men's ridicule. He does what is admirable but he gets only mockery. He might have gone out of himself because of man's praise; he returns to himself when repelled by their abuse. Finding no resting-place without, he cleaves more intensely to God within. All his hope is fixed on his Creator, and amid all the ridicule and abuse he invokes his interior witness alone. One who is afflicted in this way grows closer to God the more he turns away from human popularity. He straightway pours himself out in prayer, and, pressured from without, he is refined with a more perfect purity to penetrate what is within.

In this context, the words apply: *Whoever is mocked by his friend, as I am, shall call upon God, and he shall hear him.* For while the wicked reproach the just, they show them whom they should look to as the witness of their actions. Thus afflicted, the soul strengthens itself by prayer; it is united within to one who listens from on high precisely because it is cut off externally from the praise of men. Again, we should note how appropriately the words are inserted: *as I am.* There are some people who are both oppressed by human mockery and are yet deprived of God's favorable hearing. For when the mockery is done to a man's own sin, it obviously does not produce the merit that is due to virtue.

*The simplicity of the just man is laughed to scorn.* It is the wisdom of this world to conceal the heart with stratagems, to veil one's thoughts with words to make what is false appear true and what is true appear false. On the other hand it is the wisdom of the just never to pretend anything for show, always to use words to express one's thoughts, to love the truth as it is and to avoid what is false, to do what is right without reward and to be more willing to put up with evil than to perpetrate it, not to seek revenge for wrong, and to consider as gain any insult for truth's sake. But this guilelessness is laughed to scorn, for the virtue of innocence is held as foolishness by the wise of this world. Anything that is done out of innocence, they doubtless consider to be stupidity, and whatever truth approves of, in practice is called folly by their worldly wisdom.

*Fathers, These words are dedicated to you so that you be good Christian men and raise good Christian children*

## ALL MY HOPE LIES IN YOUR GREAT MERCY

— Saint Augustine, bishop

Where did I find you, that I came to know you? You were not within my memory before I learned of you. Where, then, did I find you before I came to know you, if not within yourself, far above me? We come to you and go from you, but no place is involved in this process. In every place, O Truth, you are present to those who seek your help, and at one and the same time you answer all, though they seek your counsel on different matters.

You respond clearly, but not everyone hears clearly. All ask what they wish, but do not always hear the answer they wish. Your best servant is he who is intent not so much on hearing his petition answered, as rather on willing whatever he hears from you.

Late have I loved you, O beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would not have been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you; now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.

When once I shall be united to you with my whole being, I shall at last be free of sorrow and toil. Then my life will be alive, filled entirely with you. When you fill someone, you relieve him of his burden, but because I am not yet filled with you, I am a burden to myself. My joy when I should be weeping struggles with my sorrows when I should be rejoicing. I know not where victory lies. Woe is me! Lord, have mercy on me! My evil sorrows and good joys are at war with one another. I know not where victory lies. Woe is me! Lord, have mercy! Woe is me! I make no effort to conceal my wounds. You are my physician, I your patient. You are merciful; I stand in need of mercy.

*Is not the life of man upon earth a trial?* Who would want troubles and difficulties? You command us to endure them, not to love them. No person loves what he endures, though he may love the act of enduring. For even if he is happy to endure his own burden, he would still prefer that the burden not exist. I long for prosperity in times of adversity, and I fear adversity when times are good. Yet what middle ground is there between these two extremes where the life of man would be other than trial? Pity the prosperity of this world, pity it once and again, for it corrupts joy and brings the fear of adversity. Pity the adversity of this world, pity it again, then a third time; for it fills men with a longing for prosperity, and because adversity itself is hard for them to bear and can even break their endurance. *Is not the life of man upon earth a trial,* a continuous trial?

## AROUND THE PARISH

### 19 JUNE ... QUARTERS & CANS SUNDAY

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

for your continued support of these important programs as we try to follow Our Lord's command and put the Holy Gospel into action.

### 12 July ... Ask the Pastor

On Tuesday, July 12, at 7pm, Father Rich invites all parishioners to participate in a "Ask the Pastor" meeting in Serra Hall. Questions of a religious or spiritual nature may be submitted in writing in advance of the meeting. Email: [pastor@ic-sandiego.org](mailto:pastor@ic-sandiego.org). All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

### 20 July ... "American Rhythm"

Discount tickets are available for \$25 to Lamb's Theater song & dance production of "American Rhythm" on Wed., July 20, 2:00 pm. Carpool or take trolley with Fr. Rich. Please contact Sue Sullivan at [ssullivan@sandiego.edu](mailto:ssullivan@sandiego.edu) or Connie at the parish office 295 4141.

### 22 July ... Divine Mercy Retreat

Join retreat speakers, Fr. Richard Perozich & Dcn. Patrick Byrne, at Prince of Peace Benedictine Abbey on Friday, July 22, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person (includes lunch). Reservations must be made in advance.

Call Jan Donovan 760-440-9905 or email [jandonovan@cox.net](mailto:jandonovan@cox.net)

### 2016 Baptism Schedule



**July 12**      **Class**

**July 17**      **Baptism**

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

### 15 July...Italian Night Parish Dinner

6:30 to 8:30 pm -- Serra Hall

Dinner includes: Green salad, Chicken Marsala, Fettuccine, and Spumoni  
No-host beer and wine

Tickets on sale in the hall or parish office.

### Father's Day Novena ...

**June 19-27**

Mass intention envelopes for the Father's Day Novena are available in the pews and in the vestibule

Remember your father and other men who were father figures in your life with the gift of a novena.

### Are you going to be hospitalized?

If so, be sure to register with the hospital as a Roman Catholic. By doing so the Diocesan priest assigned to the hospital will be informed that you are there as a patient. He will then make every effort to visit and/or bring Holy Communion to you.

### 30 July ... Faith & Family Night

SD Padres vs Reds  
5:40 p.m. -- Petco Park

To purchase tickets,  
please visit [PADRES.COM/FAITH](http://PADRES.COM/FAITH)

See flyer in the bulletin board located in the hall.

**AROUND THE PARISH**

**Gifts of Treasure**

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

**June 12, 2016**

**Total Collection: \$5,767.02**  
**Envelopes: \$3,888.00--Plate: \$1,879.02**  
**Total contributing households: 77**

5:15 Sat	\$ 889.49
8:30 Sun	\$1196.78
10:00 Sun	\$1553.32
11:30 Sun	\$1067.43
5:15 Sun	\$ 810.00
Mailed	\$ 250.00

**EXPENSES**

June 6-10, 2016

Auto Insurance	\$712.58
Maintenance	\$188.54
Music	\$825.00
Payroll (incl. tax)	\$3,274.44
Payroll Service	\$46.45
Pension	\$379.11
Pest Control	\$110.00
Postage	\$100.00

**Total: \$ 5,636.12**

**COLFS Baby Bottle Drive**  
**\$924.76**

Gratefully acknowledged by COLFS.

**Annual Catholic Appeal**  
 Pledged: \$28,763.50--Paid: \$20,673.50

*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

**FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 19**

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

New items arrive regularly.  
 Shop here for that special gift!

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

**Courtyard Bricks ...**

Bricks in honor or in memory of loved ones are available for purchase in the Gift Shop or visit the parish website. (See bulletin.)

**AMORIS LAETITIA**

**ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY  
 OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS**

15. Here too, we can see another aspect of the family. We know that the New Testament speaks of "churches that meet in homes" (cf. *1 Cor* 16:19; *Rom* 16:5; *Col* 4:15; *Philem* 2). A family's living space could turn into a domestic church, a setting for the Eucharist, the presence of Christ seated at its table. We can never forget the image found in the Book of Revelation, where the Lord says: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (*Rev* 3:20). Here we see a home filled with the presence of God, common prayer and every blessing. This is the meaning of the conclusion of Psalm 128, which we cited above: "Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion!" (*Ps* 128:4-5).

16. The Bible also presents the family as the place where children are brought up in the faith. This is evident from the description of the Passover celebration (cf. *Ex* 12:26-27; *Deut* 6:20-25) and it later appears explicitly in the Jewish *haggadah*, the dialogue accompanying the rite of the Passover meal.

**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**

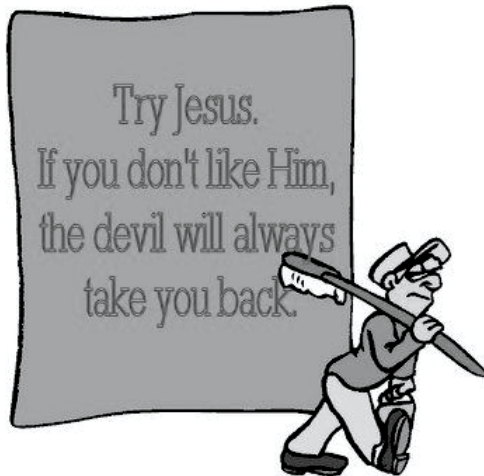
Parish Calendar

**JUNE**

- 19 Father's Day  
Quarters & Cans Sunday
- 22 Choir Practice 6:00 PM
- 25 Quilting Group 9:30 AM
- 26 Peter's Pence Special Collection
- 29 Choir Practice 6:00 PM

**JULY**

- 02 Quilting Group 9:30 AM
- 04 Independence Day  
Parish Office closed
- 08 Choir Practice 6:00 PM



**26 June ... Peter's Pence Collection**

Next week, our diocese will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Join our Holy Father as a witness of charity to those who are suffering. Special envelopes will be provided.

"Nothing so becomes a church as silence and good order. Noise belongs to theaters, and parades, and market places. But where such doctrines are taught, there should be stillness, and quiet, and calm reflection, a haven of much repose".

— St. John Chrysostom

*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**

Her hymn of praise, sung at the threshold of the home of Elizabeth, was dedicated to the mercy of God which extends from "generation to generation" (Lk 1:50). We too were included in those prophetic words of the Virgin Mary. This will be a source of comfort and strength to us as we cross the threshold of the Holy Year to experience the fruits of divine mercy.

At the foot of the cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus. This supreme expression of mercy towards those who crucified him show us the point to which the mercy of God can reach. Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception. Let us address her in the words of the Salve Regina, a prayer ever ancient and new, so that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes towards us, and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her Son Jesus.

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

18. The Christian churches are called to defend the demands of justice, the respect for peoples' traditions, and an authentic solidarity towards all those who suffer. We Christians cannot forget that "God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, that no human being might boast before God" (1 Cor 1:27-29).

## MESSED UP

*Michael Voris*

The very popular 1969 self-help book "I'm OK, You're OK" by Thomas Anthony Harris, MD shot to the top of the New York Times bestseller list in 1972 and stayed there for two years. That's quite a feat. The gist of the book was to convince people that they needed to see the world from the perspective that everything about them is OK and everything about others in the world is OK.

Stop right there. That's not anywhere close to true.

We are not "okay." The vast majority of the world — meaning more than 2:1 — are unbaptized. And baptized or not, we all suffer from the effects of Original Sin called concupiscence. Concupiscence is a desire of the lower appetite contrary to reason. In short, those longings for things which are destructive to us — the way in which sin looks attractive to us — and since God HATES sin, while we are attracted to it, that means we are all messed up.

In this way of viewing humanity, ain't nobody who can say "I'm ok or you're ok." And this way of viewing humanity is *the* way to correctly view humanity and human nature.

This is the difference between Catholicism and the rest of the world. Catholicism understands that humanity needs a savior, and the rest of the world does not see it that way. Even various protestant denominations that agree with the need for a savior initially have that belief stemming from Catholic teaching.

So the question is, simply stated, is humanity in need of a savior or not? On which side of that issue a person falls will dictate practically everything they say, do and think.

Faithful Catholics know the answer. The rest of the world has it wrong. We are not, unassisted by grace, "okay." In fact, left to our own and unassisted by grace, we will be damned. That isn't a message the world wants to hear, but that is precisely the message that Almighty God brings to the world in the person of Jesus Christ, Lord and *Savior*.

But even within the Church we encounter a kind of soft rejection of the need for a savior. It's not actually denied, just seldom emphasized, or at least to the degree it should be. There is a delicate balance in the Church between over-emphasizing the divinity of Christ, which makes Him seem too frightening to approach, while on the other hand so focusing on His humanity that we lose sight of His divinity. This has been a continual tension in the Church, and today we definitely find ourselves on the side of downplaying His divinity and role as *Savior*.

This is a very dangerous place to be spiritually. Jesus ceases to be God and therefore

Savior of the world, and instead becomes viewed as good buddy and pal Whom we draw near to because we *feel* good about Him. One of the reasons people can attach emotionally to this Jesus is because our good pal never really challenges us, never insists we move from darkness into light. The lack of attention to His divinity deprives us of a true understanding of Our Blessed Lord, of His magnificent mercy, of the ugliness of our sin.

This has come about in recent decades largely through Protestant-inspired, emotion-laden concentration on how a person feels about Jesus, corresponding their religion to their emotions. This has worked its way into the Catholic world, at least informally, and caused havoc by upsetting the balance between His humanity and divinity.

"Jesus is my savior" has been replaced by "Jesus is my friend." And this comes with the additional dimension that Jesus my friend simply accepts my sinfulness; the "Go and sin no more" command just gets dropped.

All of this is horrible. It limits the Good News because it ignores the need for the Good News. If we don't face the music about how messed up we are, we can never appreciate the great things God does for us in pulling us out of our messed-upness. The intensity of the love God has for us becomes so diminished in our little minds that it's hard to experience or even express the great virtue of gratitude because we don't really understand what we are expressing gratitude for.

We need a savior. This is the primary mission of Our Blessed Lord. The angel Gabriel announced Him as Savior to Our Blessed Mother. The angel announced Him as Savior to the shepherds on the hillside. There are more than a dozen New Testament references directly calling Our Lord "Savior," and many others where his role as Savior is simply understood.

That being the truth, then the further truth is that we *need* a savior. And from that it logically follows that we are in need of saving from something *and* that we cannot save ourselves. This is the foundational understanding of Our Blessed Lord as He relates to us. He comes to save us from ourselves and the certain eternal destruction that would follow. And this is what the world rejects, either by indifference, ignorance or scorn.

This is why it is just a horrid mistake for leaders in the Church to speak in terms of there being a reasonable hope that all men are saved. Not only does no such hope exist, but the notion plays right into the hands of those who would deny we need a savior, and that Our Lord *is* that Savior.

Human beings are messed up on various levels. We need a savior. Any discussion must begin with this basic principle. Anything else is a lie.