

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

OCTOBER 2, 2016

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor

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

Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris

rfitzmor@sdcatholic.org; 858 490-8332

Liz Fielder, Manager, Serra Gifts

fielder@ic-sandiego.org 619-297-3426

Connie Rodriquez, Parish Secretary

parish@ic-sandiego.org 619-295-4141 x 10

Marsha Long, Music

pictures@marshalong.com

Parish Office Hours

Monday: Noon to 4:00 pm
Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass: Monday - Saturday at 8:00 am

First Friday Mass & Devotion: 8:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 P.M.

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00AM, 11:30 AM, 5:15 P.M.

Holy Day Masses: 8 A.M., 7:00 P.M.

Penance: For daily Mass goes 7:30 AM. For Parish on Saturday: 4:30 to 5:00 P.M., and by appointment

Baptisms & RCIA: *By appointment only.* Please email Deacon Fitzmorris at rfitzmor@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

03	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> Sharon Jenkins, SI	MT
04	8AM	<i>St. Francis of Assisi</i> †Frances Gastélum	RE
05	8 AM	<i>Weekday</i> Manuela Nungaray, SI	MT
06	8 AM	<i>St. Bruno; Blessed Marie Rose Durocher</i> †Martin Morris	MT
07	8 AM	<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i> Carl Pugliese, SI	RP
08	8 AM	<i>Weekday; BVM</i> †Remedios Gabriel	RP
	5:15 PM	Victor de la Fuente, SI	RP
09	8:30 AM	†Lawrence Messina	RE
	10:00 AM	†Jean Ottenheimer	RE
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	MT
	5:15 PM	†Tony Rios	MT

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

OCTOBER: Intentions of the Holy Father

Universal: That human trafficking, the modern form of slavery, may be eradicated.

Evangelization: That with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the Gospel to those who are still awaiting it.

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
2nd	Manuel Del Rio, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo
3rd	Oscar Lopez, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo
4th	Nathan McWeeney, Mt. Angel Seminary, OR
2nd	Raymond Napuli, Mt. Angel Seminary, OR
2nd	Michael O'Connor, Mt. Angel Seminary, OR
3rd	Eric Tamayo, North American College, Rome
4th	Billy Zondler, Mt. Angel Seminary, OR

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

03	Bishop Robert Brom
04	Bishop Gilbert Chavez
05	Rev. Gilbert Gentile, SJ
06	Rev. Msgr. Anthony Giesing
07	Rev. Carl Gismondi, FSSP
08	Rev. William Gold
09	Rev. Gerardo Gomez Zapien

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday: Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1-10; Lk 10:25-37
 Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1-15; Lk 10:38-42
 Wednesday: Gal 2:1-14; Ps 117:1-2; Lk 11:1-4
 Thursday: Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13
 Friday: Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26
 Saturday: Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28
 Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1-4; 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

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	Steve Stone
Dorothy Kleint	Mark Brandon
Dena Mendoza	Jeanne Pontius
Jean Miller	Esther Salazar
Patricia O'Grady	Joane Anderson
Mary Jane Tiernan	Yolanda Garcia
Marguerite Vorst	Elias Barajas
Martha Zamudio	Olivia Ingram
Carlos Amaya	Grace Mulvanity
Mike Rodriguez	Angelica Ortega
Maguire Fitzpatrick	Barbara Driscoll
Tony Jenkins	Lucille Miller
Peter Nalwalker	Reginald Custodio
Frances Garcia	Victoria Cardenas
Socorro Pacheco	John Hobbs
Amparo Valenzuela	Robert Rolli
Phyllis Altomare	Eleanor Anderson
Alicia Ambrose	Marie Whitman
Inez Cerda Bull	Deirdre Rigney
Cosmo & Joan Busalacchi	Marie Wagner
Maria Casanova	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
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.

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
Maude Laracy	Stephanie Anzelone
Helen Peña	Fred Levine
Lydia Castillo Herrera	Eleanor Maycan
Bertha Lockwood	Ronald Monreal
Salvador Rivera	Mary Louise Fillet

**TIME FOR CATHOLICS TO
RECONSIDER ISLAM
AND THE "PROPHET" MUHAMMAD?**

FROM THE PASTOR

Islam is inseparable from Muhammad. If Muhammad was a false prophet who presented a false picture of Jesus, then Islam, despite whatever truths it contains, is a false religion.

—William Kilpatrick

In recent months, some prominent Catholics have taken pains to emphasize the supposedly special ties between Islam and Catholicism. In an editorial for *The Angelus*, the Los Angeles archdiocesan newspaper, Fr. Ronald Rolheiser called for greater solidarity with Islam. More recently, Msgr. Stuart Swetland, president of Donnelly College, appeared to suggest that Catholics are required to believe in the peaceful nature of Islam. Meanwhile, in Rome, a delegation of U.S. bishops and a delegation of Iranian religious leaders issued a joint statement which include this paragraph:

Christianity and Islam share a commitment to love and respect for the life, dignity, and welfare of all members of the human community...We hold a common commitment to peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.

Iranian religious leaders are committed to peaceful coexistence? The peaceful nature of Islam is binding Catholic doctrine? We should be seeking greater solidarity with Islam? Such talk might have resonated with Catholics a few years ago, but now it has a dated quality about it. It flies in the face of facts with which we are now all familiar.

If nothing else, the recent push to put a happy face on Islam is a case of very bad timing. The American bishops' faith in their Iranian counterparts comes at a time when all the evidence suggests that the chief commitment of Iranian religious leaders is to the destruction of the "Great Satan" (America). And while Church leaders are plumping for greater solidarity with Islam, much of the rest of the world wants nothing to do with it. In Europe, for example, various polls have shown that a majority of citizens believe that Islam does not belong in Europe. Angela Merkel's party is doing badly in German elections precisely because of her Islam-friendly policy. If the Church continues to pursue solidarity with Islam, it is likely to alienate a great many non-Muslims. In Europe, for example, it will be increasingly identified with

the secular elites whom many now view as traitors for having facilitated Islam's cultural putsch.

But these are pragmatic reasons for not pursuing solidarity with Islam. Are there any theological reasons?

Ironically, one reason that many Catholics take an optimistic view of Islam is also the chief reason for doubting that there can be any reconciliation with Islam. Some Catholics make much of the fact that Jesus is mentioned in the Koran and is honored by Muslims as a great prophet. This respect for Jesus, they assume, is a guarantee that Islam cannot be too far away from the truth. But the fact that Jesus is included in Islamic tradition is a two-edged sword.

Saint Paul specifically warns about the misappropriation of Jesus:

"For if someone comes and preaches another Jesus than the one we preached...or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you submit to it readily enough" (2 Cor 11: 4).

Six hundred years after Paul, Muhammad came along and started preaching a different Jesus—a very different Jesus. If anything, the Muslim Jesus is an anti-Jesus; he directly contradicts the claims of the Jesus of the Gospels. In the Koran, Allah addresses the "people of the Book" (Christians) and warns them to speak the truth about God: "The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was no more than God's apostle...So believe in God and His apostles and do not say 'Three' ['Trinity' in some translations]...God forbid that he should have a son!" (4: 171).

That's a flat denial of the Trinity and a rejection of the Fatherhood of God and the Sonship of Jesus. In other places, Allah denies the Incarnation and the Crucifixion. It's not as though these are peripheral teachings of the Church whose denial can be overlooked for the sake of fellowship. These beliefs are the foundation of the Faith.

Muslims hold that Muhammad did not write the Koran, but merely recited what Allah had told him. Thus, there are two contradictory revelations. In one, God tells us that He is a Trinity and that Jesus is the Son of the Father. In the other "revelation," Allah says he is not a Trinity and he curses those who say that Jesus is the Son of God.

Not much wiggle-room there. This is not a misunderstanding that can be papered over with dialogue and happy talk about shared respect for Jesus. It's not the same Jesus. And, unless you want to dispense with the laws of logic, it's not the same God.


cont'd p. 7

AROUND THE PARISH

03 OCT ... I.C. Seniors

Join us in Serra Hall for bingo and lunch on Monday, Oct 03. Bingo is free; lunch is \$5 per person.

Bingo game starts at 11:00; lunch is served immediately following Bingo game.



2016 Baptism Schedule

October 11 **Class**

October 16 **Baptism**

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

15 OCT ... HUMAN TRAFFICKING

What human trafficking is;
what's being done about it; what you can do to help

Social Action Committee invites you to reserve
Saturday, October 15, 2016 - Time 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá

Free event, free parking, light refreshments provided.

ALL SOULS DAY

Immaculate Conception will once again set up a remembrance table for deceased loved ones. If you wish to include a photo (framed, if possible) in the display, please drop it off in the Parish Office between now and Oct. 23.

We will also participate in Old Town's Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) festivities and keep the church open until 9 p.m. on November 1st and 2nd. We need volunteers from 4 p.m. to closing to greet our visitors and to help maintain a prayerful atmosphere in the church proper. Please contact Elena Orozco or the parish office if you can volunteer.

16 OCT ... KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus is an organization for Catholic men interested in helping those in need, serving their parish, or growing in their faith.

Members will be here to answer questions and encourage men to join.

16-18 DEC ... BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

Divorced, widowed, and separated persons can register now for a healing Beginning Experience Weekend retreat at Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside. For information and registration, go to www.beginningexperience.org.

22 OCT ... Chastity Luncheon

Parent/Child (ages 11 & up)
Chastity Luncheon Retreat
Offered by The Goretti Group and
The Nativity School
Noon to 6 pm

Equip your child with tools to live a life of chastity and modesty. For registration and information: www.thegorettigroup.com.

SAVE THE DATES...

02 DEC: ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION
08 DEC: CHRISTMAS CONCERT & DINNER

... more to follow ...

30 OCT ... Make-Up Photo Sessions for Parish Directory

If you missed the previous sessions, there are make up sessions available for October 30.

Consider taking an individual or family portrait to be included in our parish directory as we mark our centennial as a parish. Each household will receive one complimentary 8" x10" photograph and a free copy of the printed directory.

Prayer Chain Group

The group prays for those in need of support through prayer. If you or a loved one are in need of prayers, contact Ruthe Jenkins at rutheis@cox.net.

Remember to Support Our Advertisers

Our bulletin is an important way for us to communicate with you. The parish does not pay for the printing, saving us hundreds of dollars each year. The J.S. Paluch Company arranges for the bulletin to be supported through the generosity of the businesses that advertise on the back cover.

AROUND THE PARISH

Gifts of Treasure

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

September 25, 2016

Total Collection: \$4,224.47
Envelopes: \$2,889.00 Plate: \$1,335.47
Total contributing households: 83

5:15 Sat	\$ 425.00
8:30 Sun	\$1359.75
10:00 Sun	\$ 925.98
11:30 Sun	\$ 728.70
5:15 Sun	\$ 384.04
Mailed	\$ 401.00

EXPENSES
September 19-23, 2016

Cable/Internet	\$70.00
Equip. Maintenance	\$637.03
Gas & Electric	\$1,259.16
Gate Repair	\$95.00
Music	\$625.00
Music Supplies	\$36.75
Priest Pension	\$400.51
Property Insurance	\$1,193.91
Supply Priest	\$75.00
Water Utilities	\$1,424.08

Total: \$5,816.44

Building Fund: \$1,229.00

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.)

WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION!

To register at the parish, please fill out the form below and drop it in the basket or call the office at 295-4141.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY/ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Serra Gifts...

**Street Level of
Fr. Serra Hall
619-297-3426**



Open 7 days a week
 Monday - Friday 9:30 -4:00
 Saturday 10:00 to 4:00
 Sunday 9:30 to 3:00

Summer is over ...

Items now available for upcoming holiday season:
Armed Forces Prayer Book
Marian Devotions
Nativity Sets
Hostess gifts

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

AMORIS LAETITIA
ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY
OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

42. Furthermore, “the decline in population, due to a mentality against having children and promoted by the world politics of reproductive health, creates not only a situation in which the relationship between generations is no longer ensured but also the danger that, over time, this decline will lead to economic impoverishment and a loss of hope in the future. The development of biotechnology has also had a major impact on the birth rate”. Added to this are other factors such as “industrialization, the sexual revolution, the fear of overpopulation and economic problems... Consumerism may also deter people from having children, simply so they can maintain a certain freedom and life-style”. The upright consciences of spouses who have been generous in transmitting life may lead them, for sufficiently serious reasons, to limit the number of their children, yet precisely “for the sake of this dignity of conscience, the Church strongly rejects the forced State intervention in favor of contraception, sterilization and even abortion”. Such measures are unacceptable even in places with high birth rates, yet also in countries with disturbingly low birth rates we see politicians encouraging them. As the bishops of Korea have said, this is “to act in a way that is self- contradictory and to neglect one’s duty”.

PARISH & COMMUNITY

Parish Calendar

OCTOBER

03	I.C. Seniors Bingo & Lunch	11:00 AM
05	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
08	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
09	Parish Breakfast Family Catechesis	8:30 AM 9:45 AM
11	Baptism Class	7:00 PM
12	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
15	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
16	Knights of Columbus Membership Drive Baptisms	2:00 PM
18	Ask the Pastor	9:00 AM
19	Choir Practice	6:00 PM

FROM FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO
- Pope John Paul II 1981

ON THE ROLE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY IN THE MODERN WORLD 1981

THE PLAN OF GOD FOR MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Man, the Image of the God Who Is Love

... 11. This totality which is required by conjugal love also corresponds to the demands of responsible fertility. This fertility is directed to the generation of a human being, and so by its nature it surpasses the purely biological order and involves a whole series of personal values. For the harmonious growth of these values a persevering and unified contribution by both parents is necessary.

The only "place" in which this self-giving in its whole truth is made possible is marriage, the covenant of conjugal love freely and consciously chosen, whereby man and woman accept the intimate community of life and love willed by God Himself which only in this light manifests its true meaning. The institution of marriage is not an undue interference by society or authority, nor the extrinsic imposition of a form. Rather it is an interior requirement of the covenant of conjugal love which is publicly affirmed as unique and exclusive, in order to live in complete fidelity to the plan of God, the Creator. A person's freedom, far from being restricted by this fidelity, is secured against every form of subjectivism or relativism and is made a sharer in creative Wisdom.

18 Oct ... Ask the Pastor

On Tuesday, October 18, at 9am, 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. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

NEED BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, COMMUNION?

Family Catechesis for parents with their children 6 years and older and for adults who need sacraments continues on Oct. 09 in the parish hall at 9:45 am sharp, right after the 8:30 Mass. Call Fr. Perozich to register: 295-4141 x 11 or email pastor@ic-sandiego.org.

"We have no need of announcers of the word who want to change the Gospel with the excuse of adapting it to our times, but of announcers who endeavor each day, even with little results, to change themselves everyday ever more conformed to the Gospel which does not change".
— *Giacomo Cardinal Biffi*

MARTYRDOM FOR THE FAITH IN OUR TIMES

His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

For example, it cannot be that the Church professes faith in the indissolubility of marriage, in accord with the law of God written upon every human heart and announced in the word of Christ, and at the same time admits to the Sacraments those who publicly live in violation of the indissolubility of marriage. If a person who is living publicly in violation of his or her marriage bond is admitted to the Sacraments, then either marriage is not indissoluble or the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is not the Body of Christ and the encounter with Christ in the Sacrament of Penance does not require the firm purpose of amendment of our lives, that is, obedience to the word of Christ, "sin no more."

Islam stands apart from other non-Christian religions in its specific rejection of Christian tenets. Jesus is in the Koran not because Muhammad revered him, but because Muhammad wanted to put him in his place. In order to establish himself as the final prophet of God, Muhammad had to first undercut the Christian claim that Jesus is the fulfillment of all prophecy. Rather cleverly, he did not reject Jesus. Instead, he appropriated him for his own purposes. To clear the way for his own prophethood, he reassigned Jesus as a Muslim prophet.

Although Jesus is supposedly a great prophet in Islam, he doesn't have a great deal to say or do in the Koran. By contrast, Muhammad is mentioned frequently. The phrase "God and His Apostle" recurs throughout the Koran. There are many dozens of admonitions along the order of "Believe in God and His Apostle," "Obey God and His Apostle," and "Have faith in God and His Apostle."

According to Islamic teaching, assigning a partner to God is the worst possible sin—the very sin that Christians have committed by identifying Christ as the Son of God. Yet, in effect, Muhammad assigned himself the position of partner to Allah. Read through the Koran and see how many times the two are mentioned in the same breath. One gets the impression that obeying Muhammad is the equivalent of obeying Allah. In fact, verse 4: 80 says just that: "He that obeys the Apostle obeys God." And verse 4: 149 warns believers not to "draw a line between God and His Apostle."

As presented in the Koran and in Islamic tradition, Allah and Muhammad are a package deal. You can't have one without the other. The Islamic confession of faith declares that "there is no God but God and Muhammad is the messenger of God." As a Muslim, you are not allowed to dispense with the second half. In *Reliance of the Traveller*, one of the most authoritative guides to Islamic belief, we read:

Allah has made him [Muhammad] the highest of mankind, rejecting anyone's attesting to the divine oneness by saying 'There is no God but Allah,' unless they also attest to the Prophet by saying 'Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah' (v 2.1)

In Islam, Muhammad is referred to simply as the Prophet. But what kind of prophet was he?

Here's a hint. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns his listeners to "beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves" (Mt. 7:15). Does Muhammad qualify as a false prophet? It would seem so. He proclaims that God is not a Trinity and that Jesus is neither divine nor a savior. He rejects almost all of the central Christian teachings.

Was Muhammad a false prophet? It could be reasonably argued that he was the false prophet *par excellence*—perhaps the person whom Jesus had most in mind when he delivered his warning. There were false prophets in the days of Peter and Paul, but does anyone remember their names?

Did any of them found a religion that is still alive and growing? Could any of them claim a following of 1.6 billion people?

There is a curious lack of curiosity about Muhammad on the part of Catholic leaders. He is not mentioned in *Nostra Aetate*, the document on which the current optimistic assessment of Islam is built. He is not mentioned in the Catholic Catechism's statement on the Church's relationship with the Muslims. He is not, as far as I know, mentioned by Pope Francis, although Francis has spoken favorably about Islam on several occasions.

But Islam is inseparable from Muhammad. If he was a false prophet who presented a false picture of Jesus, then Islam, despite whatever truths it contains, is a false religion. For prudential reasons, you might not want to shout that from the rooftops. On the other hand, you ought not keep insisting that Catholics share much in common with Islam.

Fortunately, there are signs that the Church's Pollyannaish view of Islam may be in for a revision. The Church's Islam policy is coming under increasing scrutiny. Up until a year or two ago, Catholic journalists tended to avoid the subject of Islam except to report on terrorist attacks or on the Pope's meetings with imams. As for news analysis, most writers simply echoed the Vatican's semi-official narrative that terrorism has nothing to do with Islam. More recently, however, Catholic columnists have begun to question that narrative. More and more Catholic writers and intellectuals are taking a closer, more clear-eyed look at the Church's relationship with Islam.

A number of bishops and cardinals have also begun to question the Church's stance on Islam. American Cardinal Raymond Burke, Hungarian Bishop Lazlo Kiss-Rigo, Spanish Cardinal Antonio Canizares, and Iraqi archbishops Louis Sako and Amel Shamon Nona, along with others have expressed dissatisfaction with Church policy on Islam and/or Vatican policy on Muslim migration.

Most importantly, the dogmatic authority of *Nostra Aetate* has come into question in higher Church circles. This is significant because the two paragraphs on the Muslims in that document are the linchpin of the argument that Christianity and Islam are similar faiths that share much in common. But according to Archbishop Guido Pozzo, the Secretary of the Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei, "*Nostra Aetate* does not have any dogmatic authority, and thus one cannot demand from anyone to recognize this declaration as being dogmatic."

Nostra Aetate seems to have been intended primarily as a gesture of outreach to non-Christian religions. But somehow, over the years, it came to be seen by many as the Church's final and definitive statement on Islam. It became the trump card in any discussion of Islam among Catholics. Catholics who questioned the Church's pro-Islam policies were told that the Church had spoken, and that was that.

Now that *Nostra Aetate* is being put in proper perspective, the way is open for Catholics to develop a fuller, more reality-based picture of Islam. Hopefully, they will not waste any time in doing so.