

The Catholic Church of the
Immaculate Conception

2540 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110 619 295-4141 FAX 619 295-4142
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OCTOBER 23, 2016

Rev. Richard L. Perozich, Pastor

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Deacon Robert H. Fitzmorris

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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

24	8 AM	St. Anthony Mary Claret Ann Obiatt, SI	RP
25	8AM	Weekday †Joe Tomasin	RE
26	8 AM	Weekday †Carole Bartolac	RP
27	8 AM	Weekday †Martin Morris	RP
28	8 AM	Ss. Simon and Jude Chris DiEdoardo, SI	RP
29	8 AM	Weekday; BVM Kathleen Feinberg, SI	RP
	5:15 PM	Jimmy Orozco, SI	RP
30	8:30 AM	Marianne Kainz, SI	RE
	10:00 AM	†William Bethel	RP
	11:30 AM	†William Kennedy	RP
	5:15 PM	†Martin Morris	RP

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

24	Rev. Richard Hopkins
25	Rev. Edward Horning
26	Rev. John Howard, CJM
27	Rev. Barnabas Hughes, OFM
28	Rev. Richard Huston
29	Rev. Thomas Ianucci
30	Rev. Clement Iorliam

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Monday:	Eph 4:32--5:8; Ps 1:1-6; Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday:	Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2, 25-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday:	Eph 6:1-9; Ps 145:10-14; Lk 13:22-30
Thursday:	Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1-10; Lk 13:31-35
Friday:	Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
Saturday:	Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2,-5; Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sunday:	Wis 11:22--12:2; Ps 145:1-14; 2 Thes 1:11--2:2; Lk 19:1-10

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	Esther Salazar
Dorothy Kleint	Joane Anderson
Dena Mendoza	Yolanda Garcia
Jean Miller	Elias Barajas
Patricia O'Grady	Olivia Ingram
Mary Jane Tiernan	Grace Mulvanity
Marguerite Vorst	Angelica Ortega
Martha Zamudio	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
Cosmo & Joan Busalacchi	Deirdre Rigney
Maria Casanova	Marie Wagner
Steve Stone	Joanne Daleo
Mark Brandon	Dominic Castagnola
Jeanne Pontius	Gerry Lyons



PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY

Jesus protect all who serve our country.

Sgt. Ahmed John Alexander	Sgt. Adriana Matizel
Natalie Augustine	Wendell Miculob
Major Jerry Bloomquist	LTJG Joe F. Moralez, USN
Col. Mike Bodkin	LCPL Matthew A. Pena
Danny Carpenter, USMC	Sgt. Richard Pierce
LTJG Joseph Colangelo, USN	Sgt. William Paul Powers and Cinco
Cpl. Samuel James Comer	CPL Wilson Santiago
Daniel Dinglebeck, USN	Alfred Tello
PFC David Eley, USMC	Ricky Thibeault
Micah Emery	Tony Tulloss
Sgt. Christopher Escalona	PFC Travis Vliet; & 3rd
1Lt. Cortez Fabia	Marine Aircraft Wing.
Juan Carlos Galazza	SCPO Desiree S. Hayes, USN
SSGT. Vincent Charles	Gil Perez, US Navy
Lucario	Scott Walker, US Navy
Robert Clinton Long, MC2	

† PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED †

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

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
John Cervantes	Inez Cerda Bull
Daniel Don	Bernice Lyons

A PHOENIX BISHOP'S PLEA TO VOTERS AND POLITICIANS: NO VOTES FOR ABORTION

FROM THE PASTOR

By Kevin Jones

Catholics should be consistent in public life and need to make protecting innocent life a serious political priority, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix has said in the latest edition of his booklet on the duties of Catholic voters and politicians.

The booklet "Catholics in the Public Square," now in its fourth edition, makes a distinction between support for intrinsically evil issues and support for different methods of achieving policy.

"For example, Catholics may never legitimately promote or vote for any law that attacks innocent human life," Bishop Olmsted said, latter adding "being right on all the other issues can never justify a wrong choice on this most serious matter."

The guide reiterated the need to examine one's conscience and the need for Catholic politicians to oppose laws that allow or promote abortions.

"If a politician is actively supporting and furthering the culture of death, he is not only causing scandal; he is sinning. Similarly, when a politician performs actions (like voting) that allow for abortions and even promote abortions, or that mandate the distribution of contraceptives by pharmacists and others, that politician is materially cooperating in grave sin," the bishop's booklet continued.

These politicians must make a sincere confession before receiving Holy Communion, he said. Because the harm they have done was public, they should also publicly make amends.

"Catholics should always be respectful of the human dignity of others, including people of different faiths, or no faith at all," Bishop Olmsted said. "Having said that, however, Catholics should not be afraid to embrace their identity or to put their faith into practice in public life. In fact, each of the faithful has a call to evangelization and to share the good news of Christ with the rest of the world."

The booklet, released Sept. 17, features a new foreword by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles and updated material from Pope Francis. The new material includes excerpts from the Pope's recent encyclical "Laudato Si" and his speeches during his trip to the United States.

"Bishop Olmsted wrote this booklet to better form Catholic lay people about their faith and responsibilities to their communities," Robert DeFrancesco, communications director for the Diocese of Phoenix, told EWTN News Sept. 19. "According to Bishop Olmsted, it is important for Catholics to reflect on their role in public life, because we are called to live our faith all of the time wherever

we are and whatever we are doing, not just at Mass on Sundays."

Bishop Olmsted said that Catholics are specially called "to contribute to the common good, to defend the dignity of every human person, and to live as faithful citizens."

"It only makes sense that if Catholics are supposed to live their faith in all of their daily activities that they should also take their faith into account while voting," he added.

A Catholic's preparations to vote must include proper formation of conscience, followed by research of important issues and candidates that will appear on the ballot.

Archbishop Gomez's foreword to the booklet also reflected on Catholics in the public arena.

"This book is a kind of 'question and answer catechism' on some of the deepest issues of faith and public life," he said. The archbishop described the booklet as "a must-read for all of us who are trying to engage the culture and to proclaim the Church's beautiful vision for human life and human society."

"The Church needs clear and courageous teaching and witness to confront the idols of a secularized, post-Christian America," Archbishop Gomez said.

Bishop Olmsted suggested that some Catholics have been "frightened into silence and even confused by charges that they are imposing their morality on others."

"Of course, if one's faith does not impact on one's whole life, including one's political and social responsibilities, then it is not authentic faith; it is a sham, a counterfeit," he countered.

"A democratic society needs the active participation of all its citizens, people of faith included," he added. "This is not an imposition on other's morality. It is acting with integrity... The active engagement of Catholics in democratic processes is good for society and it is responsible citizenship."

Archbishop Gomez said that Catholic social teaching provides "a vision of the world as it could be and as it should be. The world as God created it to be."

"The Catholic vision is spiritual not political. Catholics belong first of all the 'city of God.' But we have a duty to build up the 'city of man,' to correct injustices and seek a world that reflects God's desires for His children — what Jesus called the kingdom of God and the Apostles called the new heaven and new earth," the archbishop said.

The fourth edition booklet, published by St. Benedict Press, is available in an eBook version at Amazon and at the webpage <http://dphx.org/catholics-in-the-public-square/>. Its production was supported by a contribution from the national Knights of Columbus. The booklet is being distributed to the parishes of the Phoenix diocese.

AROUND THE PARISH

23 OCT ... MISSION SUNDAY

This weekend we celebrate World Mission Sunday. This year we are invited to support the 1,150 of the youngest dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. Please keep the Missions in your prayers and please be generous in this weekend's collection for the Society of the Propagation on the Faith. Envelopes will be distributed during Mass.

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

If you missed the previous sessions, there are a limited number of make up sessions available for October 30. Sign up online through parish website or call the parish office 619-295-4141.

OCT 30 ... QUARTERS & CANS SUNDAY

Please drop your Quarters and Cans envelopes in the regular collection next Sunday. Money collected will be used to assist those who come to us in need and to support other Catholic programs. 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.



2016 Baptism Schedule

November 08 Class

November 13 Baptism

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

30 Oct ... 29th Annual Pro-Life Chain 2:00-3:30 pm

Join thousands of concerned citizens across the nation in his peaceful, prayerful and public witness for the rights of the unborn. Two locations. 1) Central County: Balboa Ave between Genesee and I-805; 2) East County: Gather on Navajo Rd., between Medford and I-125 in front of Our Lady of Grace Church.

For more information, please call Cathy Williams, 619-955-3597 or visit website www.nationallifechain.org.

01 NOV ... NIGHT FEVER LET'S EVANGELIZE!

Our parish will be wide open until ? p.m., we will be inviting passers-by to come see, sit in contemplation, listen to music, and pray. Help is needed. Please call Michael Camacho at 619-565-8301.

02 NOV ... All Souls Novena

Remember departed loved ones through the All Souls Novena. Envelopes are available in the pews and in the vestibule. Envelopes may be dropped in the collection basket or turned in to the gift shop or the parish office. The Novena begins Nov. 02 and ends Nov. 10.

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 by Thurs., Oct 27.

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.

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR BULLETIN AND WEBSITE SPONSORS

AROUND THE PARISH

Gifts of Treasure

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

October 16, 2016

Total Collection: \$5,366.53
Envelopes: \$3,862.00 Plate: \$1,504.53
Total contributing households: 77

5:15 Sat	\$ 729.00
8:30 Sun	\$1634.50
10:00 Sun	\$ 926.11
11:30 Sun	\$ 728.12
5:15 Sun	\$ 967.80
Mailed	\$ 381.00

EXPENSES

October 10-14, 2016

Maintenance Supplies	\$65.28
Ministry Supplies	\$247.59
Music	\$825.00
Office/HallSupplies	\$317.95
Payroll (incl. tax)	\$3029.60
Payroll Service	\$46.45
Pension	\$380.96
Pest Control	\$110.00
Postage	\$100.00
Priests Pension	\$400.51
Property Insurance	\$1193.91
Telephone	\$288.73
Workers Comp	\$107.99

Total: \$7,113.97

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

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

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

45. "A great number of children are born outside of wedlock, many of whom subsequently grow up with just one of their parents or in a blended or reconstituted family... The sexual exploitation of children is yet another scandalous and perverse reality in present-day society. Societies experiencing violence due to war, terrorism or the presence of organized crime are witnessing the deterioration of the family, above all in large cities, where, on their outskirts, the so-called phenomenon of 'street-children' is on the rise". The sexual abuse of children is all the more scandalous when it occurs in places where they ought to be most safe, particularly in families, schools, communities and Christian institutions.

46. "Migration is another sign of the times to be faced and understood in terms of its negative effects on family life". The recent Synod drew attention to this issue, noting that "in various ways, migration affects whole populations in different parts of the world. The Church has exercised a major role in this area. Maintaining and expanding this witness to the Gospel (cf. Mt 25:35) is urgently needed today more than ever... Human mobility, which corresponds to the natural historical movement of peoples, can prove to be a genuine enrichment for both families that migrate and countries that welcome them.

PARISH & COMMUNITY

Parish Calendar

OCTOBER

23	Mission Sunday Family Catechesis	9:45 AM
26	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
29	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
30	Quarters & Cans Sunday	
31	Harp Meditation Vigil Mass-All Saints Day	5:30 PM 7:00 PM

NOVEMBER

01	All Saints--Holy Day of Obligation Mass Night Fever Old Town Day of the Dead Festivities	8:00 AM and 7:00 PM 8:15 PM
02	All Souls Day -- Mass Choir Practice Old Town Day of the Dead Festivities	8:00 AM 6:00 PM
05	Quilting Group	9:30 AM
07	I.C. Seniors-Bingo & Lunch	11:00 AM
08	Baptism Class	7:00 PM
09	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
12	Quilting Group	9:30 AM

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

... 13. In a deservedly famous page, Tertullian has well expressed the greatness of this conjugal life in Christ and its beauty: "How can I ever express the happiness of the marriage that is joined together by the Church strengthened by an offering, sealed by a blessing, announced by angels and ratified by the Father? ..How wonderful the bond between two believers with a single hope, a single desire, a single observance, a single service! They are both brethren and both fellow-servants; there is no separation between them in spirit or flesh; in fact they are truly two in one flesh and where the flesh is one, one is the spirit." Receiving and meditating faithfully on the word of God, the Church has solemnly taught and continues to teach that the marriage of the baptized is one of the seven sacraments of the New Covenant.

Indeed, by means of baptism, man and woman are definitively placed within the new and eternal covenant, in the spousal covenant of Christ with the Church. And it is because of this indestructible insertion that the intimate community of conjugal life and love, founded by the Creator, is elevated and assumed into the spousal charity of Christ, sustained and enriched by His redeeming power.

By virtue of the sacramentality of their marriage, spouses are bound to one another in the most profoundly indissoluble manner. Their belonging to each other is the real representation, by means of the sacramental sign, of the very relationship of Christ with the Church.

NEED BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, COMMUNION?

Family Catechesis for parents with their children 6 years and older and for adults who need sacraments continues on Oct. 23 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.

"The real destroyer of the liberties of the people is he who spreads among them bounties, donations and benefits." -- *Plutarch*

"When you are offended at any man's fault, turn to yourself and study your own failings. Then you will forget your anger." -- *Epictetus*

MARTYRDOM FOR THE FAITH IN OUR TIMES

His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

A New Evangelization: Father John A. Hardon and Pope Saint John Paul II

In a particular way, I draw upon the work of the Servant of God Father John Anthony Hardon of the Society of Jesus, who died on December 30th of the Great Jubilee Year of 2000. Father Hardon expressed eloquently, in his speaking and in his writing, the strong conviction that Catholics today, like the early Christians, must be ready to give strong witness to their faith, in its integrity, even to the shedding of blood. I think, for instance, of the *Marian Catechist Manual*, the Servant of God's last publication, for which I was honored to write the Preface.

THE BEATITUDES

by Saint Leo the Great, pope

Dearly beloved, when our Lord Jesus Christ was preaching the Gospel of the kingdom and healing various illnesses throughout the whole of Galilee, the fame of his mighty works spread into all of Syria, and great crowds from all parts of Judea flocked to the heavenly physician. Because human ignorance is slow to believe what it does not see, and equally slow to hope for what it does not know, those who were to be instructed in the divine teaching had first to be aroused by bodily benefits and visible miracles so that, once they had experienced his gracious power, they would no longer doubt the wholesome effect of his doctrine.

In order, therefore, to transform outward healings into inward remedies, and to cure men's souls now that he had healed their bodies, our Lord separated himself from the surrounding crowds, climbed to the solitude of a neighboring mountain, and called the apostles to himself. From the height of this mystical site he then instructed them in the most lofty doctrines, suggesting both by the very nature of the place and by what he was doing that it was he who long ago had honored Moses by speaking to him. Then his words evidenced a terrifying justice, but now they reveal a sacred compassion, in order to fulfill what was promised in the words of the prophet Jeremiah: *Behold the days are coming, says, the Lord, when I shall establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. After those days, says the Lord, I shall put my laws within them and write them on their hearts.*

And so it was that he who had spoken to Moses spoke also to the apostles. Writing in the hearts of his disciples, the swift hand of the Word composed the ordinances of the new covenant. And this was not done as formerly, in the midst of dense clouds, amid terrifying sounds and lightning, so that the people were frightened away from approaching the mountain. Instead, there was a tranquil discourse which clearly reached the ears of all who stood nearby so that the harshness of the law might be softened by the gentleness of grace, and the spirit of adoption might dispel the terror of slavery.

Concerning the content of Christ's teaching, his own sacred words bear witness; thus whoever longs to attain eternal blessedness can now recognize the steps that lead to that high happiness. *Blessed*, he says, *are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* It might have been unclear to which poor he was referring, if after the words *Blessed are the poor*, he had not added anything about the kind of poor he had in mind. For then the poverty that many suffer because of grave and harsh necessity might seem sufficient to merit the kingdom of heaven. But when he says: *Blessed are the poor in spirit*, he shows that the kingdom of heaven is to be given to those who are distinguished by their humility of soul rather than by their lack of worldly goods.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF EXISTENCE

— Cardinal Giacomo Biffi

"In the plan predisposed by God for the salvation of men, there are three pillars which sustain the entire edifice of our existence. If they give way, the collapse of all values is inevitable. They are also the truths we are bound to accept if we want to call ourselves Christians.

"These truths are: God, our Father and Friend; Jesus Christ, the Envoy and Son of God: the Church, as a redeemed people and a community of those who are awaiting the Kingdom of God. These three truths are so linked to each other that if one is lost, sooner or later the others will be lost too. The history of the last few centuries has demonstrated this.

"Four centuries ago for the first time in Europe, the idea of the Church was questioned, even if a deep faith in Christ, God and Savior was maintained. Nonetheless after some centuries, where the idea of the Church was lost, it resulted in the uncrowning of the Divinity of Christ, by considering Him a mere man, even if a great one, a genius. Further, it became commonplace to think of Him as the 'first socialist', a freedom fighter for the oppressed and a preacher of earthly justice. Fascinating idiocies: if Jesus Christ were not truly the Son of God, He would have simply been a fanatic and a failure of a man. When faith in Christ was corroded, also the idea of God, which seemed very vivid, bit by bit began to fade. And so for the first time in history, mass atheism made its appearance.

"It seemed in the beginning that even without the idea of God the human ideals of justice and morality could have been maintained. Someone more intelligent saw instead where things were heading: 'If God doesn't exist, everything is permissible' says one of Dostoyevsky's characters, and even murder ends up being justified. Today we are being convinced of this at our own expense. This presumptuous society, which has demolished its foundations, is no longer able to stand on its own feet: nothing seems to be important, no value seems to be sustained. We are faced with a world of no sense, which is heading inexorably towards desperation.

"Naturally we are not going toward desperation, since we have been given great hope and each paschal celebration offers us once again motive [for this hope] by restoring freshness and vitality to us; as long as we remain fully aware of the three pillars and of their necessary connection: it is impossible to save a human existence worthy of this name without faith in God; it is impossible to believe in God Who is Father to us and will not abandon us, without contemplating Jesus Crucified and Risen, where the love of God is revealed; it is impossible to know Who Jesus really is, if one does not remain in the Church, the 'foundational column of Truth' and the 'Bride without spot or wrinkle', as St. Paul says. We cannot play around with the foundations of our existence: who is going to pull us out of the rubble and ruins of our pretentious castles?"

Translation: Contributor Francesca Romana