

The Beacon

·Newsletter of The Immaculata Church·

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 3, 2021



May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives
Psalm 128

*Welcome to
The Immaculata*



The Extraordinary Gift of an Ordinary Ministry by Demi Johnson

Over a year and a half ago, my time had finally come for me to join a social ministry group at the Immaculata. It took a little convincing but at the start of 2020 I finally joined the Young Adult group, which I am overwhelmingly thankful for. Not only because of the beautiful friendships that formed and the faithful fellowship but most especially because it led me to another ministry that I am going to write about more here. It was a tiny, short-term ministry that left me in complete awe of Jesus who showed up in the most simple yet most profound of ways.

A little backstory...the 'Canopy Ministry' was founded somewhere in summer of 2020 in the midst of the Covid pandemic. In short, it came about due to the need to resume outdoor masses. Since Fr. Matt was gracious in wanting to provide shade for parishioners attending the outdoors masses each week every weekend the canopies needed to be put up on



(continued on page 3)

The Immaculata Staff

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Bishop of San Diego

Most Reverend John Dolan
Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego

Most Reverend Ramon Bejarano
Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego



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Catechesis of the Holy Father

by Pope Francis (September 29, 2021)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Letter to the Galatians, we now consider Saint Paul's teaching on justification. For the Apostle, God in his mercy, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, has offered definitive forgiveness and salvation to sinners, thus reconciling us to himself. Paul's encounter with the risen Lord on the road to Damascus led him to understand that we are justified not by the observance of precepts and our own efforts, but by the grace of God through faith in Christ. While the law remains a holy gift of God (cf. Rom 7:12), and obedience to the commandments is essential to our spiritual life, the grace of God, freely



bestowed in Christ, is primary. The faith born of our experience of God's saving love should transform every aspect of our lives and bear fruit in acts of charity; in this sense, Saint James can write that we are "justified by works, not by faith alone" (Jas 2:24). In the work of our justification, the priority belongs to the justice and mercy of God, who calls us to cooperate in his plan of salvation for all.

To read more visit <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2021>

Saint of the Week

Saint John Leonardi 1541–1609. Feast day: October 8



"I am only one person! Why should I do anything? What good would it do?" Today, as in any age, people seem plagued with the dilemma of getting involved. In his own way, John Leonardi answered these questions. He chose to become a priest. After his ordination, Fr. Leonardi became very active in the works of the ministry, especially in hospitals and prisons. The example and dedication of his work attracted several young laymen who began to assist him. They later became priests themselves. John lived after the Protestant Reformation and the Council of Trent. He and his followers projected a new congregation of diocesan priests. For some reason the plan, which was ultimately approved, provoked great political opposition. John was exiled from his home town of Lucca, Italy, for almost the entire remainder of his life. He received encouragement and help from Saint Philip Neri, who gave him his lodgings—along with the care of his cat! In 1579, John formed the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, and published a compendium of Christian doctrine that remained in use until the 19th century. Father Leonardi and his priests became a great power for good in Italy, and their congregation was confirmed by Pope Clement in 1595. John died at the age of 68 from a disease caught when tending those stricken by the plague. By the deliberate policy of the founder, the Clerks Regular of the Mother of God have never had more than 15 churches, and today form only a very small congregation.

To read more www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day

(“The Extraordinary Gift of an Ordinary Ministry” continuation from page 1)



Saturdays and taken down on Sundays after the 11am mass. A mundane, mediocre and simple (in theory) task each week made possible by very generous Immaculata volunteers. After a couple of months of volunteering from time to time I was asked to take charge of coordinating volunteers each week to make sure they had enough people to set up and take down the canopies. Again, simple in theory, and piece of cake in my mind so I said yes. I found out shortly after that anything with ministry in the title or in any way associated to it will never be simple and quite possibly the farthest thing from a piece of cake.

If I'm being honest, I have never struggled so much as much as I did when coordinating volunteers to help with the canopies each week. (And please read till the end so you know it's not all bad!) Continually asking people to volunteer their time each week with a task that could not really constitute as fulfilling became daunting to me. I needed so much help and we certainly didn't have a village of volunteers. My sad, "quick-fix" mentality struggled to ask people for help. I felt completely out of my comfort zone, so stretched, small, and pretty much helpless week after week. All God's very intentions I later found out, yet, all I wanted to do was figure out how any sort of money would make this problem go away or how the task could be accomplished by one person, not 6 people, only so I'd never have to ask anyone to help. But apparently God also knew that, and He knew exactly what he was doing by placing me in this ministry.

I ultimately found myself in complete reliance on Jesus, praying every day for help with this ministry that I thought would be a cakewalk, yet I turned out to be so helpless and so small right at the foot of His cross,

right where he actually wanted me to be, and to have the eyes to see I was unable by my own will, materials and whatever power I claimed to have.

In this ministry I learned I had nothing. The person I was, the people I knew, the things I had meant absolutely nothing to needs of this ministry. It hit me so hard. I needed not just a community, but our community to help me, I needed something way outside of myself. I learned how completely reliant I had to be on our community, and their invaluable gift of time which quickly because the greatest gift I could receive. I learned the humbling task of asking for help, over and over again, something I've always struggled with, and so much more.

That was ministry. By giving it all to Jesus, broken down and surrendered, I could finally deny myself, find my soul, and be given the grace to see myself in His very image. I felt like a true child living for God for the first time, not reliant on things of this world but on Him, and not just in theory or on occasion but for every single thing and every single moment, something I so badly needed and did not know it till then.

So if you are like me, you might find yourself volunteering at a social ministry and maybe thinking you will be giving back in some way and offering yourself, which is also true and of course a gift, but what you will gain in return will be seven-fold and unimaginable. Even though I very much willed the ministry to end every single week, I would never take back a second of it. I learned challenging, invaluable lessons and have never felt the presence of Jesus so closely in my life all because I said yes to the tiny mediocre, mundane and simple canopy ministry.



Mission Statement of The Immaculata

Inspired and strengthened by the Sacraments, Scripture, and Liturgy, we are a vibrant, diverse Roman Catholic community called to serve as faithful disciples of Christ in our lives and ministries. With our Blessed Mother to guide us, we strive to be a beacon of faith and a spiritual home to all who seek God.

MASSES

Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.
(inside the church & livestreamed)

Saturday Vigil 4:30 p.m.
(inside the church)

Sunday 7:30 a.m.
(inside the church & livestreamed)

Sunday 9:00 a.m.
(inside the church)

Sunday 11:00 a.m.
(inside the church)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays
3:30 p.m.– 4:15 p.m.
(Inside the church)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Closed on Saturdays & Sundays

(619) 574-5700

theimmaculata@sandiego.edu

Mass Readings & Intentions

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 3, 2021

First Reading

The man said, "This one is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman'".

Genesis 2:18-24

Responsorial Psalm

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives

Psalm 128

Second Reading

He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin.

Hebrews 2:9-11

Gospel

Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.

Mark 10:2-16 [2-12]

Intentions:

7:30 a.m. For an end to the pandemic & for its victims

9:00 a.m. For the sick of the parish

11:00 a.m. For all parishioners

Monday, October 4

Jon 1:1 — 2:2, 11; Jon 2:3-5, 8; Lk 10:25-37

Intention: +Ed & Grace Dunlap

Tuesday, October 5

Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1-4, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42

Intention: +Cathy Circo

Wednesday, October 6

Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4

Intention: +Frank & Ruth Murphy

Thursday, October 7

Mal 3:13-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 11:5-13

Intention: +Davis Family

Friday, October 8

Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9;

Lk 11:15-26

Intention: +Rev. Joseph Carroll

Saturday, October 9

Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;

Lk 11:27-28

Intentions:

8:00 a.m. +James Delaney

4:30 p.m. +Don Murphy

Summer Challenge 2: Hispanics and the Catholic Church

by David Freeman, Bea Halk, and Yvonne Freeman

The Immaculata Racial Justice Ministry met in August for the second Summer Challenge to expand our understanding of the effects of racism on Latinx peoples. We opened the session with a prayer by a parishioner who explained that many Spanish speaking Catholics make a small cross over the forehead, the mouth, and the heart before making the larger sign of the cross. These gestures ask God for freedom from thinking evil thoughts, speaking evil, and from having evil desires or doing evil.

Session leaders then explained the choice of the term Latinx. It is widely used in academic writing to avoid gender bias. We acknowledged that there are many ways Latinx people identify themselves, including Hispanic, Chicano/ Chicana, Latina/ Latino or an identification based on their country of origin, such as Cuban, Puerto Rican, or Salvadoran. It is always best to honor the way individuals identify themselves.

The leaders explained that in our Diocese of San Diego Spanish masses are offered online. Several parishes also offer Spanish masses. In addition, Auxiliary Bishop Bejarano has been assigned to focus on serving the Latinx Catholic community.

We then divided into groups to discuss the resources that participants had studied. We began with the letter written by El Paso Bishop Seitz in the wake of the 2019 white supremacist attack at Walmart. Bishop Seitz explained that he felt compelled to write his parishioners on "the theme of racism and white supremacy so they could reflect together on the evil that robbed us of 22 lives."

The attendees commented on historical events, including the 1847 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ceded areas of Mexico to the U.S. including parts of California, New Mexico, and Arizona. People living in these areas were granted full U.S. citizenship, but many were persecuted, killed, or lost their property. We also learned that the Battle of the Alamo was fought in part because Texans wanted to maintain slaves but Mexico had abolished slavery.

We also discussed the largest deportation in American history during the Great Depression, "Operation Wetback." Six million Mexicans, 60% of whom were U.S. citizens, were deported. Only six years later, the U.S imported Mexican farm workers under the Bracero program.

In the 1960's Mexican farm workers organized the five-year Grape Boycott. Pope Paul VI and other Catholic leaders supported Cesar Chavez and his workers in forming the United Farm Workers Union.

One parishioner described being brought to San Diego from Mexico by her parents at age 8. She was instructed not to stand out as different, not to speak Spanish in public and to act "American". She also remembered that her parents were denied access when trying to buy a house in San Diego. As she said, "Now, things are different. We celebrate our culture and roots."

The first lines of the final prayer reflected much of what we shared during our time together: *Jesus: The immigrant's journey through life is long and hard. They cannot make this trip alone; we must walk together on the journey.*

For more information about our Racial Justice learning program please write to us ImmaculataRJ@gmail.com.

THE IMMACULATA

LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

"Love One Another"

Building Bridges of Solidarity

In Parts 1 and 2 of this series, we explored our social justice roots and learned that we as believers are sent to renew the earth embracing that heritage. We conclude our three-part series with ways to embrace our Catholic social mission.

Part 3: Key Elements for Parish Social Ministries

The following from the US Bishops provides a guide for integrating social justice and peacemaking into our personal and parish lives.

- **Anchor Social Ministry: Prayer and Worship.** "In prayer, we find the reasons, the strength, and the call to follow Jesus in the ways of charity, justice, and peace." Pray and discern how well we are conforming our lives to Our Lord's mission.
- **Share the Message: Preaching and Education.** "Week after week, day after day, the lectionary calls the community to reflect on the scriptural message of justice and peace." Listen for it, celebrate it, and spread the word about our social justice heritage incorporating it into parish educational efforts.
- **Support the "Salt of the Earth": Family, Work, Citizenship.** Live our faith in the world placing our gifts at the service of others. Seek the common good, respect all human life, and promote dignity for all humankind.
- **Serve the "Least of These": Outreach and Charity.** "Serve those in need and change the structures that deny people their dignity and rights as children of God. Service and action, charity and justice are complementary....Neither alone is sufficient; both are essential signs of the gospel at work."
- **Advocate for Justice: Legislative Action.** Listen and respond to the cry of those at risk, marginalized and oppressed including vulnerable children—born and unborn, those who suffer discrimination and injustice, those without food, health care or housing, and our suffering planet. Advocate for change.
- **Create Community: Organize for Justice.** Collaborate within the parish, with other parishes, other faith traditions and organizing groups to engage in authentic relationships and build a sense of community. Church-based and community organizations can make an important "difference on housing, crime, education, and economic issues in local communities."
- **Build Solidarity: Beyond Parish Boundaries.** Bear witness to the most important aspect of Catholic social teaching: that we are one family motivating us to overcome barriers of "race, religion, ethnicity, gender, economic status, and nationality. We are one in Christ Jesus beyond our differences and boundaries. Parishes need to be bridge-builders, reminding us that we are part of a Universal Church with ties of faith and humanity to sisters and brothers all over the world."



Papacy: 3/13/2013 -

Image courtesy of Korea.net

Words of Wisdom from Pope Francis

"The Way of the Cross alone defeats sin, evil and death... It is the way of hope, the way of the future."

-Way of the Cross, July 2016



[Read now...](#)

WATCH



Can we practice Catholic Social Teaching in our everyday lives?

Yes. As this

video shows, we begin by seeing everyday opportunities to live what we believe.

[Watch now...](#)

READ



During August 2021 Pope Francis prayed that our church may receive the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel."

Read and watch: "A Church On The Way".

[Read now...](#)

REFLECT



How clearly and consistently do we hear the cry for justice?

Here's an easy and enlightening way to help you reflect on your answer.

[Explore now...](#)

Immaculata Announcements

Senior Discussion Group - "Aging Eyes"

All are welcome to join our monthly Senior Discussion Group that covers a wide variety of older adult-related issues. For the next meeting in October we will discuss "Aging Eyes." Please join us as we learn and share information about this important topic affecting a majority of seniors. This meeting will be via Zoom only on Wednesday, October 13 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Laura will stay on to answer any senior-related questions. Respond or Register by contacting Laura Runkle at lrunkle@gmail.com or calling (619)920-6449.

Book Club

Our hybrid plan of meeting in person on the first Thursday of the month and via Zoom on the third Thursday has to be delayed. We've decided the safest move is to take it s-l-o-w and stay on Zoom until the virus calms down. As one member stated, "Who wants to show up for book club to wear a mask at an indoor meeting?" We are currently reading *What Happened at Vatican II* by John O'Malley. The title of the book might sound boring but we are learning a lot, the discussions are engaging and being part of a wonderful church community is enriching. On Thursday, October 7 we will meet at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss chapters 4 and 5. You are welcome to join us. Please contact Lynne or Bruce Howard if you want to get on the list! at lynne.m.howard@gmail.com or brucevhoward@gmail.com.

Terrific Tuesday Walkers

Terrific Tuesday Walkers are still enjoying a walkie-talkie around beautiful Kate Sessions Park. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month (October 5) at 9:15 a.m. just below the flag pole near the restrooms. Please contact Lynne at (858) 245-7632 if you are ready to participate.

Join the Donut Ministry!

Have you ever been told you have a friendly smile? Do you enjoy serving The Lord and others? Then we have a "holey" ministry for you! Join the Donut Ministry! Our goal is to make everyone feel welcomed and provide an opportunity to build community by serving donuts after the masses on Sundays. To sign-up for the "sweetest" ministry please contact: Rose Neves-Duarte McAndrew at (619) 948-8131.

Courtesy Announcements

Caring for the Whole Person Initiative (CWPI)

Finding peace & support during serious illness through a new diocesan /parish initiative. Those interested in learning more about this new initiative can attend a training October 16 & 23 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center-3888 Paducah Drive, San Diego, 92117. Modules presented will be: Palliative care & hospice, Caring for parishioners, Catholic moral teaching, advance care planning, parish as a loving community, caring for one another & the grieving process. This is a no cost event, but registration is required by October 11. <https://forms.gle/FyMX68McU2Fs8bGH9>. Complementary lunch provided.

San Diego Family Mass

October 23 at 11 a.m.
St. Gregory The Great, San Diego

Pope Francis has designed the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family, a time to celebrate the five-year anniversary of the landmark Synod on the Family and ensuing apostolic exhortation, "Amoris Laetitia" (The Joy of Love). In the Diocese of San Diego, we also commemorate the five-year anniversary of our own Synod on the Family and the creation of the Diocesan Office for Family Life & Spirituality. Please join Bishop McElroy and the diocese for a Mass at St. Gregory the Great to celebrate the five-year anniversary of "The Joy of Love" and the movement it inspired to welcome and serve today's families. The event will include a Family Rosary at 10 AM, a Family Resource Fair, and a variety of fun family activities! In addition to "Celebrating the Joy of Love", this gathering of families will also be a celebration of returning to Mass and being able to see the "Family of Families" once again, united around the altar of the Lord.

Stewardship of Treasure

*For where your treasure is,
There also will your heart be.*

-Matthew 6:21

Week of September 26 , 2021

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Online: \$5,831.75

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The Immaculata Parish, San Diego, CA

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The Last Word

We're looking forward to seeing you at the

2021

Stewardship Social

October 9-10

after all Masses!



Keep in Your Prayers

Amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly father.

Matthew 18:19

Healing

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alma Church | Marion Griffin |
| Lucia Yandell | Michael Ebipane |
| Sandy Perretti | Gina DeLapa |
| Bruce Perretti | Marian Oddo |
| Riley Manahan | Josh Helm |
| Leonard Hayden | Rita Winrow |
| Dawn Pathman | Millie Prior |

The sick list is updated on a monthly basis. Please call the parish office to add a parishioner to the list.

"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

~ Saint Padre Pio

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

at the Immaculata Church

Every Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

New Parishioners

Perez Family
Manaois Family
Mary Brendel

Hester Family
Jay Eggers

Words of Wisdom

ENCOURAGEMENT

As vital as oxygen is to the body, so is encouragement to the soul.

—Anonymous

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