

ST. JUNIPERO SERRA

Miguel Jose Serra was born on the island of Majorca on November 24, 1713 and took the name of Junipero when, in 1730, he entered the Franciscan Order. Ordained in 1737, he taught philosophy and theology at the University of Padua until 1749. At the age of thirty-seven, he landed in Mexico City on January 1, 1750 and spent the rest of his life working for the conversion of the peoples of the New World.

In 1768, Father Serra took over the missions of the Jesuits (who had been wrongly expelled by the government) in the Mexican province of Lower California and Upper California (modern day California). A tireless worker, Serra was in large part responsible for the foundation and spread of the Church on the West Coast of the United States when it was still mission territory. He founded 21 missions and converted thousands of Indians. The converts were taught sound methods of agriculture, cattle raising, and arts and crafts.

Junipero was a dedicated religious and missionary. He was imbued with a penitential spirit and practiced austerity in sleep, eating and other activities. On August 28, 1784, worn out by his apostolic labors, Father Serra died. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on September 25, 1988. On September 23, 2015, he was canonized as a saint by Pope Francis in a special Mass in Washington, DC.

ST. JUNIPERO SERRA

FEAST DAY: JULY 1

NOVENA: JULY 2-10

Let us begin, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Saint Junipero Serra, your missionary zeal brought the light of Christ to millions. You endured so many hardships and labored so much that your work resonates today in the hearts of hundreds of millions of Catholics. Saint Serra, I petition you today to help me deliver the light of Christ through my words and deeds to others. May I instruct by example and faithfully guide others to Christ, just as you so wonderfully did centuries ago. I pray that you stand beside me, that you grant me the wisdom and words to share. Please intercede for me before the throne of Christ, may you both witness the work I do on His behalf. I offer my labor and my sacrifice to you. Please receive me as your faithful servant, in Christ, My Lord, I pray. Amen

(Mention your request here)

Saint Junipero Serra, pray for us

Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be