IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SAINT JUNIPERO SERRA . . .

Blessed Junipero Serra was canonized because he was a holy man, not a perfect one. The Pope’s decision, however, has led to some controversy among some contemporary Native Americans over how their ancestors were treated. Let’s take a brief look at some pros and cons:

THE PROS

- Serra was devoted to the Native Americans and to sharing the Gospel with them.
- At age 57, he traveled from Spain to the ends of the earth (California was the end of the world then!) walking with a bad leg and a horse to carry supplies.
- Archivists and historians say letters from people who knew Serra tell about his total devotion to evangelizing, educating and administering the sacraments to the native peoples of what is now California.
- 72 years of sifting through historical evidence in California and the Vatican verifies Serra lived a holy life, loving God and serving others.

AND CONS

- The California mission founder is responsible for a legacy of cruelty to Native people. (undocumented)
- One way Serra got to the people was through the children. They would drop the children off a cliff and kill them. The cliff is called “Crying Rock” today. (Ancestral story of the Kumayaay tribe.)
- Serra’s agenda to convert the “savages” to Christianity, including extreme forms of torture while building the missions, has been excused as commonplace for the time.
- This historical trauma in Native Americans is difficult to treat. Many lives are lost each year to suicide, drug abuse, and domestic violence

People are not canonized because they are perfect. Otherwise we would have very few, if any, saints, including St. Peter! People are canonized because their life’s commitment had more good than non-good connected to it.

Sources: The Feast of Blessed Junipero Serra, The Santa Fe New Mexican, ncronline.org

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

Beverly Bryan, Editor/photographer, bbryan3177@att.net
OR Meg Hays, President, mhays918@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD

Every Thursday
Adoration for Vocations
St. Francis Xavier Chapel
Sept. 18-20, 2015
Serra Region 9 Convention
West Des Moines, IA
Sept. 23, 2015
Junipero Serra’s Canonization
Washington, D.C.
Sept. 23, 2015
40 Days for Life Kickoff
Garden of Hope
October 1, 2015
Diaconate Ord. of Sean O’Brien
St. Peter’s Basilica
Rome, Italy
October 10, 2015
Pro-Life Breakfast
Church of the Madalene
October 25, 2015
Priesthood Sunday

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of our deceased Serran brothers and sisters and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen