

PRAYERS

*To Reclaim California for Christ the King
and for the Resurrection of Missionary Zeal.*



ALL AUTHORITY
*in heaven and on
earth has been
given to me.
Go therefore
and make disciples
of all nations
baptizing them
in the name of the
Father and of the
Son and of the Holy
Spirit, teaching
them to observe all
that I have
commanded you;
and lo, I am with
you always, to the
close of the age.
Mt. 28:18-20*

San Junípero Serra, heroic missionary and Apostle to California, in the name of our Divine Savior, Jesus, we implore you to embark once again on a mission of rescue to the beautiful but dangerous land for which you sacrificed your life.

California is now beset with grave difficulties arising from a pervasive spirit of rebellion and lawlessness, the relentless pursuit of wealth, fame, and political power; and the result is widespread moral chaos. The Faith you labored so ceaselessly to establish among the indigenous Californians continues to decline and is in danger of being lost to future generations through neglect, indifference and deliberate assault. In place of that Faith, for which you sacrificed *everything*, many now preach a different gospel—that of worshipping the creation instead of the Creator, and the results have been catastrophic, both for individual souls and for the actual God-ordained natural order. Woe, indeed, for those who now “call evil good and good evil.” (Romans 1:18-25; Isaiah 5:20)

As in life you allowed nothing—including chronic physical pain, the risk of death and constant discouraging setbacks—to thwart your mission, so now do not delay to come to the aid of California in this hour of desperate need to reclaim this land for Christ the King.

Bring with you an army of heavenly intercessors: Your personal patroness and traveling companion, Our Lady of Bethlehem, Mother of the Incarnate Word of God, and Saint Joseph, upon whom you relied to provide for all the needs of your expedition to Upper California under apparently impossible circumstances. Bring also the patron saints of all the California Missions, the angels and archangels, the thousands of Indian souls you prepared for heaven by baptizing and confirming them, your brother Franciscan missionaries and the souls of all the inhabitants of California, clergy and lay, who have remained faithful over the centuries to the teachings of Holy Mother Church. Together, the Church Triumphant, the Church Militant and the Church Suffering can move mountains of resistance to the Reign of Christ the King.

When Our Lord ascended into heaven, He gave his disciples a mission which looked impossible: To make disciples of ALL nations, ALL peoples; and on the Day of Pentecost He equipped them for this mission by giving them tongues of fire so that every soul on the face of the earth could hear, understand and choose to accept Christ’s teaching. And for centuries ardent souls like yourself were recruited by the Holy Spirit to evangelize the nations, many being martyred in the process.

Recently, the Church has lost sight of Christ’s “Great Commission” to save souls with disastrous results. We pray in reparation for this failure, trusting that this wound can be healed and that your example of faithful obedience to Christ’s commands will ultimately inspire a great resurrection of fruitful missionary activity. May God bring about this victory for the Faith through the personal and public witness of all the faithful and thus reclaim California for Christ the King whose universal sacrifice for souls provides the foundation on which His royal authority rests. Amen.

AVE CRUX SPES UNICA



San Junípero Serra's reliquary "Caravaca" Cross. Believed to contain a fragment of the True Cross, it was brought from his birthplace in Mallorca, carried with him to Spain, Mexico and California and was buried with him.

Merciful Lord Jesus, the sacrifice You made, the price You paid for sinners of all times and places is our only hope. We bring to the foot of Your Holy Cross, the Altar on which your sacrifice was made, our burdens of grief, guilt, and trauma, the sins we recognize and regret and those still unconfessed because we have not yet had the courage to face them.

We bring to Your Holy Cross our unrealized hopes, our feeble efforts to pray effectively and practice virtue and our genuine desire to please You and do as You command, trusting You will accept these offerings for the cleansing of California and all the nations. As You transformed water into wine You can take these unworthy gifts, sanctify them, multiply them and use them to save countless souls.

Then may we see once again Your Holy Cross carried to every corner of the earth by armies of faithful missionaries and publicly displayed as a sign of Your Divine Right to make claims on our love, our loyalty and our obedience to the Laws of God. Amen.



Mission San Juan Capistrano

**LITANY FOR THE CONVERSION OF CALIFORNIA
and
THE RESURRECTION OF MISSIONARY ZEAL**

God, Our Father and Creator of Heaven and Earth, **have mercy on California.**
God, the Son to Whom the Father has given all authority, **have mercy on California.**
God, the Holy Spirit, made manifest in human history, **have mercy on California.**
Holy Trinity, One God, **have mercy on California.**

La Purísima Concepción, victorious over the evil one, **protect California from diabolical destruction.**

Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, sorrowing and alone after the crucifixion of your Son, **do not let us fall into despair while we await a great resurrection of missionary zeal for the salvation of souls.**

Gate of Heaven, **enlist every saint and holy soul to pray for the conversion of California.**

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas, **pray for an awakening to the sanctity of life in California.**

Queen of Angels, **dispatch the heavenly hosts to protect California's children from all physical, moral and spiritual harm.**

Our Lady of Bethlehem, companion to San Junípero Serra in his expedition to Upper California and Mother of the Missions, **encourage and strengthen the priesthood in California.**

San José, Patron, Protector and Miraculous Provider for the missions, **provide generously for the rebuilding of churches and homes in California.**

San Juan Bautista, forerunner of the Messiah and martyr for the gospel of repentance, **fulfill again your mission to "turn the the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just." (Lk. 1:17)**

San Francisco de Asís, called by God to rebuild His Church, as you responded obediently and inspired countless missionaries and martyrs to risk all for the salvation of souls, **instill in all Franciscans today a pure and powerful recommitment to your Order's charism.**

Santa Clara de Asís, faithful follower of San Francisco and Mother Founder of the Poor Clares, **inspire a new generation of young women to devote their lives to praying for the conversion of souls.**

San Junípero Serra, Apostle to California desiring to go where no missionary had been before, **pray for a restoration of the faith in California.**

San Junípero Serra, undaunted by seemingly insurmountable obstacles, **hasten to intercede for a return to fidelity to the Commandments of God in California.**

San Junípero Serra, ardent crusader for the salvation of souls, **pray without ceasing for the resurrection of missionary zeal in and for California.**

San Junípero Serra, so familiar with pain and suffering, **implore Heaven to send comfort and relief to those who have been left destitute from man-made and natural disasters in California.**

San Buenaventura, Doctor of the Church and Minister General of the Franciscan Order, **pray that all clergy entrusted with great intellectual gifts will never be tempted to sever the vital connection between teaching the truth, the pursuit of virtue and the pastoral care of souls.**

Santos Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo, Archbishop, Reformer and Third Order Franciscan and Luis, Obispo de Tolosa, devoted to the poor and formed in the Faith by Franciscans, **inspire the Bishops of California to be fearless public defenders of the Church's teaching.**

San Antonio de Padua, whose powerful preaching and astonishing miracles converted countless souls throughout Europe, **bring healing and consolation to those who have lost everything.**

San Juan Capistrano, Franciscan wonder-worker and enemy of the enemies of Christ, **pray that our clergy will never fear to face and publicly name those enemies.**

San Francisco Solano, Franciscan missionary to Peru and Padre Serra's personal patron and inspiration, **fill our youth with pride and gratitude for the sacrificial courage shown by the first missionaries to reach California.**

San Diego de Alcalá, Franciscan lay missionary and worker of miracles, **inspire a mighty movement of lay evangelism in California.**

Santos Fernando Rey de España and Luis Rey de Francia, saintly monarchs who, like the Magi, knelt humbly before the King of kings, **pray for the conversion and sanctification of all who exercise political power in these troubled times.**

Santa Bárbara, secret lover of Christ betrayed by your own father to martyrdom, **lead those who feel betrayed by their leaders on a path to peace, freedom and forgiveness.**

Santa Inés, Virgin Martyr and model of innocence for the young, **pray for the protection of the chastity of our youth.**

San Miguel, Arcángel, **defeat satan's efforts to thwart this mission of restoration.**

San Gabriel, Arcángel, **give us courage to persevere in this mission of restoration**

San Raphael, Arcángel, **be our companion and guide in this mission of restoration.**

All our Holy Guardian Angels, **protect and encourage us in this mission of restoration, reminding us always of San Junipero's motto: "Always go forward, and never turn back!"**

Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, **spare us, O Lord.**
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, **graciously hear us, O Lord.**
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

O Lord, hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto Thee.**

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, Divine Missionary sent by the Father to the fallen human race, all honor, glory, love and obedience belong rightly to You. Every right, favor and privilege we may now enjoy comes to us from Your generosity or forbearance through the immaculate hands of Your Holy Mother. As both she and San José provided guidance and loving support to You in Your infancy and youth, may they both now guide all of us who, in response to Your command and inspired by the witness of San Junípero Serra, seek to make “disciples of all nations,” teaching and baptizing them in the Spirit of Truth You promised would be ours after Your Ascension and until the end of the age. Amen.

