

PILGRIMAGE TO THE CALIFORNIA MISSIONS WITH MONSIGNOR ROBERT KURWICKI

Old Town San Diego ✚ Mission San Diego de Alcalá ✚ La Jolla ✚ Mission San
Juan Capistrano ✚ President Reagan Library ✚ Mission Santa Barbara ✚
Monterrey ✚ Mission Santa Ines ✚ Carmel by the Sea
Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa ✚ San Francisco ✚ Mission Santa Clara de
Asis ✚ Alcatraz ✚ Mission San Juan Bautista ✚ Golden Gate Bridge

November 7th - November 16th

Spiritual Leader: Monsignor Robert Kurwicki



November 7th Flight out of St. Louis



November 7th - We begin our California Mission Journey in beautiful, sunny **San Diego** on the Pacific Coast in Southern California. After settling into our hotel in the **Old Town Historic District**, our home for the next two nights, we will have a special welcome dinner. **D (dinner) San Diego**

November 8th - After breakfast, we stroll down to nearby **Presidio Park**, the Plymouth Rock of the Pacific. Newly Canonized **St. Junipero Serra**, the great Spanish Franciscan missionary, established Upper California's first mission in 1769. His motto was, "Always forward, never back." Where better to begin than the "**Mother of the California Missions**," **Mission San Diego de Alcalá**, the first link in a chain of 21 missions founded by Father Serra. We will immediately enter the peace and serenity of the mission as we celebrate **Mass in the Mission Basilica**, followed by reflection and meditation time. Then it's on to **La Jolla**, "**the Jewel**," to have lunch in this beautiful hideaway just north of San Diego, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. At the end of the day, we drive along picturesque Mission Bay to San Diego's **Embarcadero**, where we can choose from the many excellent restaurants for dinner on our own.

B (breakfast) & L (lunch) San Diego

November 9th - This morning our first stop is Oceanside, a pretty coastal community. After **Mass at Mission San Luis Rey de Francia (1798)**, we continue on to the **Mission San Juan Capistrano (1776)**. We take refuge in the cool interior and experience its serenity, the fruit of many years of prayer. In this mission, as in others, thousands of native peoples came to know and worship Christ for the first time. We can talk to witnesses who describe a strange, widely-known miracle. **Each year, swallows** arrive promptly on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, and depart October 23, the anniversary of the death of St. John of Capistrano, the mission's patron saint. After time for lunch on our own, we will travel to **Yorba Linda** to visit and tour the **President Nixon Presidential Library**. Then we check in to our hotel in nearby Anaheim, and there have dinner and overnight. **B & D Anaheim**



November 10th - Today we head for **Simi Valley** to visit and tour the **Presidential Library of President Ronald Reagan**. After time for lunch on our own, our destination this afternoon is a place close to the heart of today's Franciscans, since the **Mission Santa Barbara (1786)**, "**Queen of the Missions**," is the only mission in the California chain that has remained under Franciscan jurisdiction since its founding. There we celebrate **Holy Mass** and then check-in at our hotel. We will have the pleasure to dine at a popular restaurant with some beautiful views. **B & D Santa Barbara**



November 11th - This morning we will travel to the quaint **Danish town of Solvang** in the Santa Ines Valley. The rolling hills and vineyards provide the setting for **Mission Santa Ines (1804)**, "**Hidden Gem of the Missions**," featuring a museum housing Latin missals, music books on parchment, and early vestments that outdate the mission itself. Our celebration of **Holy Mass**, begins our reflection and exploration of this mission.



Lunch on our own will complete our morning. In early afternoon we will return to Santa Barbara for some free time, and have dinner together and overnight stay.

B & D Santa Barbara



November 12th - You already have seen the “Mother” and the “Queen.” Today you begin with **Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa (1772)**, the “**Prince of Missions.**” The first mission built with the famous red tile roof, it is now a vibrant parish. Since it fills one square block in the center of a bustling city, it has become an oasis of peace, faith and beauty. We continue north to San Miguel and stop to celebrate **Mass at the Mission San Miguel Archangel (1797)**. We will witness the unique state of preservation of the old adobe church and the long monastery building. On our journey further to the north we first make a stop so that we can have a bite of lunch on our own. Then we drive some distance to the beautiful **Monterey Peninsula**. We check in at our hotel in Monterey and go for dinner on our own at the marvelous sea-front area of **Carmel-by-the-Sea**. In this beautiful setting we can select from the many award-winning restaurants.

B Monterey



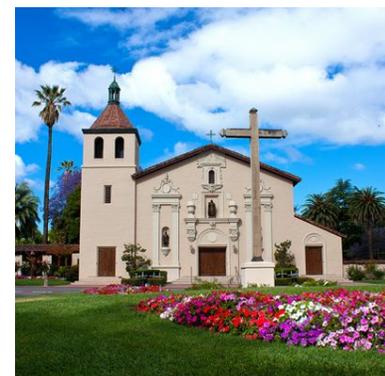
November 13th - Today we begin at the **Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo (Carmel Mission - 1770)**, the final resting place of **St. Junipero Serra**. When he visited this mission, Pope St. John Paul II said of Father Serra, “He was destined to be the apostle of California and to have a permanent influence over the spiritual patrimony of this land and its people.” After Mass, we will take a driving tour with stops for lunch on our own, as well as photo taking at the breathtaking 17 Mile Drive, seeing **Bird and Seal Rocks, Lone Cypress and Pebble Beach**. We can relax back at the hotel before being taken to the *Rappa’s Restaurant* in Monterey for dinner.

B & D Monterey



November 14th - This morning’s drive takes us north through the gorgeous **Salinas Valley** where we stop to celebrate **Mass at Mission San Juan Bautista**. Founded in 1797, it is the largest church in the mission chain and the only one still in service since its founding. After Mass we visit **San Juan Bautista State Historic Park**, which includes the old Plaza Hotel, site of the 1840 Castro House, headquarters of the Mexican government. Following lunch on our own, we continue north through the world famous **Silicon Valley** to the **Mission Santa Clara de Asis (1777)**, located on the banks of the Guadalupe River. Father Serra founded this mission shortly before his death in 1784. Our day will wind up in **San Francisco**, where we will enjoy this lovely city’s hospitality for the next two nights. We check in at our hotel and are served dinner.

B & D San Francisco



November 15th - We start this final full day with **Mass at Mission Dolores (1776)**, founded in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows and Saint Francis of Assisi, its official patron. This is the oldest building in San Francisco, and this mission miraculously survived the great earthquake and fire of 1906. We can take in the unique architecture of the adjacent basilica with its combination of Moorish, Mission and Corinthian styles. We are given the **grand tour of San Francisco**, featuring the **Twin Peaks observation site, Nob Hill, Chinatown, St. Mary's Cathedral** and the downtown area. After time for lunch on our own, we are treated to another view at **Golden Gate Bridge Outlook**. Then we descend to the docks at San Francisco Bay. We will board a ferry for a ride to the middle of the bay to **Alcatraz**. There from a special guide we learn how this island was used as a prison. We return by ferry, and then we enjoy our last evening in San Francisco at dinner at *Fog Harbor Fish Restaurant*.

B & D San Francisco

November 16th - We have breakfast and check out of our hotel to head for San Francisco International Airport for our flight home.



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