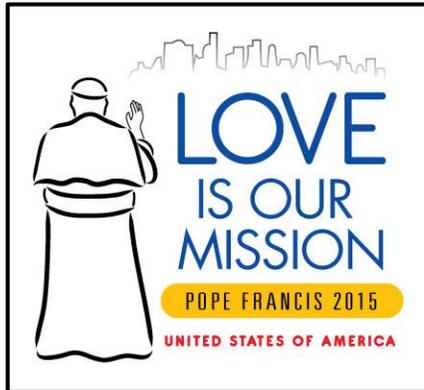


## Apostolic Visit of Pope Francis to the United States – September 2015



### St. Junipero Serra

Feast Day July 1<sup>st</sup>

Franciscan Priest and Missionary

Pope Francis will make an apostolic journey to the United States this week, Sept. 22-27.

On Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pope Francis will be greeted by President Obama at the White House and have a meeting with him. Later in the day, he will offer the Mass of Canonization of Fr. Junipero Serra at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

On Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis will become the first Pope to address a joint session of the United States Congress. Later, he will travel to New York.

On Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis will address the United Nations and later offer Mass at Madison Square Garden.

On Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis will travel to Philadelphia to participate in the World Meeting of Families, which was called for by the Vatican.

On Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, Pope Francis will conclude his visit with Mass and then depart for Rome.

Several media outlets will provide coverage of Pope Francis' visit. Complete coverage of the Papal visit and the World Meeting of Families will be provided by EWTN TV. For their schedule go to [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com) and click on the "Pope Francis in America" box on the right side of the homepage.

Fr. Junipero Serra was born in Mallorca, Spain in 1713 and baptized Miguel Jose Serra (Michael Joseph Serra). He had a devotion to the Blessed Mother. As a teen, he went to a school run by Franciscans. Miguel entered the religious community of Franciscans and learned about their history and way of life and later entered the religious community. He took the name Junipero after the name of St. Francis' friend, Juniper. **[Junipero (who knee pear oh)]** Br. Junipero would become a priest. He was very educated, earning his doctorate in theology, the study of God. He then taught at the university. Fr. Serra desired to become a missionary and sailed with a fellow Franciscan to Mexico. He would later find himself head of the schools in Baja California (part of Mexico). The opportunity came to do missionary work in Alta California (modern day California) and Fr. Serra would spend the rest of his life establishing missions in California and evangelizing the native people about God and offering sacraments to them. In total, 21 missions were established with the first nine being established by Fr. Serra. He died at the San Carlos Mission near Carmel, California in 1784. The cause or investigation of whether Fr. Serra is a saint was started in the 1940's and in 1988, Pope St. John Paul II declared him Blessed. In January 2015, Pope Francis declared Fr. Junipero Serra a saint and the Mass of his canonization Mass will take place Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. To learn more about St. Junipero Serra, go online to [www.stjunipero.org](http://www.stjunipero.org).