Serra’s canonization justifies enslavement of indigenous people

Mission system was built to begin colonization

SAM CAMPBELL
Opinions editor

This past week, Pope Francis embarked on a historic journey to the United States. He became the first Pope to speak in front of Congress, and passed up the opportunity to dine with high-power politicians in order to break bread with the homeless. His trip also included a visit to Washington, D.C., where he canonized Junipero Serra, the man who founded the first nine of 21 famous Spanish Missions along California’s golden coast in the mid-1700s.

The missions — including Mission San José, just down the street from Ohlone College, where the authors of this column attend school — were built in order to begin colonization in the new region. But one of the main reasons was to take the opportunity to educate and convert the indigenous people. In the Catholic religion, spreading the word of God is just as important as believing in God yourself. Being able to come to an “untouched” place, and to be able to save the souls of all these “uncivilized” people, was a huge gift.

Quickly, the indigenous people were rounded up and forced onto the missions as slaves, where they were taught Spanish, taught how to read and write, and taught about God. They were forced to cut their hair and forget their native tongue. They were completely stripped of any identity that had shaped their people.

Pope Francis’ decision to make Junipero Serra a saint provides justification for the Church’s enslavement and genocide of an indigenous people.

The title of saint means that the person has made it to heaven, and the Church recognizes certain people in order to recognize the type of life a person should lead.

If the Church thinks that dedicating your whole life to assimilating a culture through violence, erasure and genocide is a good idea, then they’re on the right track.

Today, we have turned these missions into tourist sites, where you can stop to see the history. Every display of the natives avoids the truth of why they were there. It circumvents the entire issue and praises their “accomplishments.”

Our school name, Ohlone, wasn’t even a tribe in the area. The missions took many strong tribes that lived in the area, grouped them together and called them by one name. Single handedly they erased every part of their identity.

And by adopting that name, we have continued the erasure. So, stand with me in solidarity this month, for the man who started the mass genocide that took place on California soil has been made a saint, and has been pointed out by the Church as a man you should strive to emulate.

So, as America talks about the indigenous as though they are long-gone, so were the people of the missions.

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Let’s begin a titillating conversation

SAM CAMPBELL
Opinions editor

Presently in America, it is legal in 31 states, including California, for women to walk the streets topless. So why don’t we? Why is it that in 2015, a year when Kim Kardashian can try to break the Internet with her butt, and Nicki asks “Miley, what’s good?” women can’t walk topless to keep cool in the summer? Though it may be legal in certain states to be topless, local ordinances are in place to force women to cover up.

By now, many of you are thinking, “Oh great, another feminist rant,” and you’re right. I understand not only the sexual organs, when, as a woman, you partake in the expectations forced onto women by walking through New York, topless. #FreeTheNipple was started by Lina Esco and written by Hunter Richards, was released. This film, based on true events, follows the movement of a group of passionate women who are fighting against the expectations forced onto women by walking through New York, topless. #FreeTheNipple was started by Lina Esco once she realised she wouldn’t be allowed to release the movie without a fight. This hashtag started the Free The Nipple campaign, which has sparked advocacy nationwide. This movement was recently reignited by Instagram’s policy against women showing their nipples in pictures.

The fight to bare nipples in public is not new, but this specific movement is. Women participate in protests where they come together to march the streets, topless. Though some do still opt to cover just their nipples.

But why is it so taboo? Women are held to different expectations than men. Women are expected to be pure, untouched, and are in turn pressured to hide their bodies. We all hear the phrase “those belong to me” in regards to a woman’s breasts in a relationship; men are taught to think this way.

As previously mentioned, American society has over-sexualised the female form. It is wrong for women to show their skin, but every advertisement has half-naked women. Women are told to wait till marriage, but men are expected to have sex when young (so, who exactly are they having sex with?).

If a woman partakes in the

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Batman or Superman?

Who will win when the “Batman vs. Superman” movie comes out next year?

ADRI MAGANA-JARAMILLO
Psychology

“Superman. He has less weaknesses and limitations”

TEAL
Psychology

“I don’t see the point of them fighting”

RON CARLOS DAVALOS
Video Broadcasting

“Batman. He has a contingency plan for almost every hero or villain if they go rogue”

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